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Pride of the nation



Proud to be a Kuwaiti. (Photo by Ahmed Burtin)

National Day festivities begin

Kuwait celebrates

KUWAIT, Feb 17, (Kuna): The Kuwaiti national flag was hoisted ceremonially today starting a 12-day celebration on the 25th National Day. The Information Minister, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad, gave the signal to hoist the flag at the Waterfront's Green Island.

The festivities, which were attended by a huge crowd, were conducted by a group of members of army, police and National Guard. Hundreds of balloons and doves were released as the flag was unfurled.

Rescue squads, fire departments and coast guards presented some demonstrations, in which ministries, public and private institutions and citizens took part.

The celebrations will last until Feb 28 when a ceremony

will be held to lower the flag.

The National Day celebrations during which decorations are in abundance and people express their happiness, are an opportunity to contemplate the march of the nation and its accomplishments.

Kuwait has given special attention to productive projects which are increasing especially those meant to meet the people's consumption needs. Kuwait now even exports certain products.

However, the state is striving to develop Kuwaiti man to match the level of material modernisation and establishing

(Continued on Page 9)

Pak envoy in OIC talks

4 shot dead in Kashmir

JEDDAH, Feb 17, (Agencies): A special envoy of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto discussed today the Muslim secessionist movement in India's Kashmir province with the head of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

Ihtikar Hussain Gilani, Pakistani Minister of Law, Justice and Provincial Co-ordination, arrived earlier in the day from Kuwait for meeting with OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Ghalib as well as Saudi Arabian officials.

In Kuwait, Gilani delivered a written message from Benazir to HH the Amir. From Jeddah, he will go to Riyadh to deliver a similar message to the Saudi monarch, King Fahd.

The Jeddah-based OIC had earlier announced unequivocal support for Pakistan and the Muslim people of Kashmir, site of bloody conflict between anti-Indian demonstrators and Indian security forces.

The OIC urged India to search for a peaceful solution to the problem. Ghalib told a recent press conference he contacted New Delhi on the issue but received no response.

Sources in the Saudi capital said Gilani will meet with the Saudi minister in charge of Haj affairs to discuss preparations for the 1990 pilgrimage season to the Muslim holy cities of Makkah and Medina.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said several Islamic issues would also be discussed but declined to specify the Kashmir issue among these.

In Srinagar, India, a protest strike disrupted normal life in the Kashmir valley where clashes between security forces and protesters today left four people dead and 13 others injured, officials said.

Meanwhile, Kashmir's rebellion leader Sardar Abdul Qayyum warned today that Kashmir might resort to the military option if obliged.

"Kashmir is asking for peace and will not resort to the military option unless intimidated," he told the Saudi daily Okaz, adding "we are ready for more sacrifices."

Almost 100 Kashmir inhabitants have been killed since Jan 20 with the outbreak of the latest violence in the decades-old quest for independence from mainly Hindu India.

He said Kashmir was currently negotiating with Pakistan to present the issue for settlement at the United Nations.

Abdul Qayyum said if Pakistan

were unable to present the issue to the United Nations and other world forces, Kashmir will benefit from article 99 of the UN charter that enables the secretary-general to take measures to prevent deterioration in any region.

He charged India was "killing the children, women and disabled" in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Indian security forces shot dead four more people today when Muslim separatist demonstrators tried to march to a United Nations office in Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar.

An official spokesman for the Jaammu and Kashmir state authorities said the security forces were forced to open fire when the crowd tried to snatch their guns. Thirteen people were injured.

One of the dead was a woman. Veiled Muslim women have been joining the revolt in India's only Muslim-majority state.

Witnesses said the demonstrators were trying to deliver a memorandum to the Srinagar office of a UN group monitoring the ceasefire line between Indian and Pakistani troops.

Security forces broke up a first attempt to hold the march by beating demonstrators with rifle butts, the witnesses said. When the demonstrators began regrouping, chanting anti-Indian slogans, security forces opened fire, killing the three.

More than 100 people have died in the month-old revolt which has heightened the long-standing tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

There were repeated protests in Srinagar throughout today during a dawn-to-dusk break in the curfew officially in force in the city throughout the revolt.

Officials confirmed five bombings but had no reports of casualties in the blasts.

They said that in other incidents in Srinagar, two security force members were wounded when militants opened fire on them and two passers-by were wounded when militants lobbed a hand grenade at a military truck.

After dusk fell, calls to jihad or holy war could be heard broadcast from the loudspeakers of the city's mosques.

Protests erupted again today in three other towns in Kashmir's Himalayan valley — Sopore, Baramulla and Anantnag — officials and witnesses said.

Czech action Husak expelled

PRAGUE, Feb 17, (AP): Former President Gustav Husak, former Premier Jindrich Strougal and other leading former officials were expelled today from the Czechoslovak Communist Party, the state news agency CTK reported.

The expulsions were proposed by a commission probing the political responsibility of former senior party officials for Czechoslovak's economic and political problems. They were announced during a session of the party's central committee.

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Geagea strikes back after major defeat

Air Force defects to Hirawi; Reuter photographer killed

BEIRUT, Feb 17, (Agencies): Christian militiamen, striking back after a major defeat in Beirut, launched a massive tank-led assault today against a besieged helicopter base held by Gen. Michel Aoun's army north of the capital.

Also today, a police spokesman said rescuers evacuated 32 bodies — some mutilated beyond recognition — from burned-out cars, tanks, apartments and narrow alleys of East Beirut's Ain Rummaneh district. Aoun's troops took the district yesterday.

In the fighting a Reuters news agency photographer, Khalil Dhaini, 30, was shot and killed by sniper fire in the Christian district of Ain Rummaneh, an editor at the British agency said.

Police said at least 1,000 heavily armed fighters from Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia were engaged in the three-pronged attack against the base at Adma. The base is on the hilltop above the famous Casino du Liban in Kesrouan province.

Reuter reports ceasefire

BEIRUT, Feb 17, (Agencies): Lebanon's warring Christians today declared a ceasefire in 18 days of fighting in which more than 600 people have been killed.

The ceasefire announcement was made by the forces of both General Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea, who appealed yesterday for outside help for his Lebanese Forces (LF) militia.

The police spokesman, said Geagea's militia launched the attack at first light.

He said Geagea's gunners were using truck-mounted, multi-barrelled rocket launchers that spit out 40 projectiles a minute to hit the base, as well as T-54 tanks to try to advance from the north, east and south.

The sources said Geagea's militiamen advanced toward the Adma helicopter base near the LF-controlled port city of Jounieh, 12 miles (19 km) north of Beirut.

Aoun's forces withdrew after repeated attacks by the militiamen who are now 300 metres (1,000 feet) away from the Adma base, the sources said.

More than 750 soldiers and officers loyal to Aoun have been under siege by the militiamen since the outbreak of the violence in the Christian enclave.

Aoun's gunners outside the area were firing US-made 155 mm howitzers, "trying to ease the pressure on the helicopter base, maintaining a belt of shellfire around it to block the advance," he said.

Lebanon's four-plane Air Force took off from its Halat air base in Kesrouan late yesterday and defected to the government of Hirawi. They landed at a base in Syrian-occupied north Lebanon, far from Aoun's artillery range.

The police spokesman said the vintage Hawker Hunters narrowly escaped a shelling barrage by Aoun's gunners.

The 18-day-old showdown for control of the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Christian enclave has left 615 people dead and 1,829 wounded, by police count.

Aoun's gunners and Lebanese Forces militiamen also duelled with mortars in the streets of East Beirut, starting a dozen fires in the districts of Ashrafiyeh and Nabaa, the last two pockets controlled by the Christian militia in the capital.

"We are taking a short rest before we start uprooting them from Ashrafiyeh," one of Aoun's soldiers told reporters in Ain Rummaneh on Beirut's southeastern edge.

Bodies booby-trapped

BEIRUT, Feb 17, (AP): Glass shards crunched underfoot as Red Cross workers removed the body of a Lebanese Forces fighter crushed by a burned-out tank against the wall of a demolished building in Christian East Beirut.

Gen. Michel Aoun's soldiers have warned civilians not to touch corpses, saying some of them were booby-trapped by the fleeing Lebanese Forces militiamen led by

rival Christian leader Samir Geagea.

Two other Red Cross workers, wearing bright orange uniforms, trudged in a pile of garbage near the Soviet-made T54 tank as they tried to slip a metal stretcher under the body of a second militiaman.

"We found the lower part of the body near the garbage. The upper part was 10 metres (yards) away," said one Red Cross worker as he waved off swarming flies.

Apparently, the tank was hit by a shell as the Lebanese Forces militiamen jumped out. The errant tank, its driver wounded, rammed the militiaman against the wall.

Parents shooed away youngsters watching the scene in the Furn Al Shubbak section of East Beirut.

"Where are the other two bodies?" one harried rescuer asked his colleague. "There were four militiamen in the tank."

An eerie silence hung over Furn Al Shubbak and the neighbouring district of Ain Rummaneh today, a day after Aoun's soldiers wrested both districts from Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces after a 16-hour tank assault.

At least 75 people were killed and 54 wounded in the attack against the low-income residential neighbourhoods in East Beirut.

By police count, more than 600 people have been killed and more than 1,800 wounded in the 18-day-old struggle for mastery of the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Christian enclave between Aoun's 19,000 troops and Geagea's forces, made up of 6,000 militiamen and 10,000 reservists.

Ain Rummaneh and Furn Al Shubbak



Act of Love

A pregnant 43-year-old mother said through tears on Friday that the unborn baby she hoped would save the life of her cancer-stricken daughter was conceived as an act of love.

Mary Ayala became pregnant in the hope that the baby will become a suitable bone marrow donor to her daughter Anissa, who has had leukaemia for the past two years and could soon die.

Some of Ain Rummaneh's densely populated narrow alleys resembled junkyards piled with burned cars, compressed into thin sheets by tanks that had crushed them.

A Christian boy holds a wooden cross and rests on sandbags in East Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

Farther from Equator, higher the incidence of breast cancer

NEW ORLEANS, Feb 17, (Reuters): The sunniest spots in the United States and the Soviet Union also enjoy the lowest breast cancer rates, a research team from the University of California in San Diego reported today.

"The farther a woman lives from the Equator, the higher the incidence of breast cancer," said Cedric F. Garland of the UCSD school of medicine.

"What we've found, in the US and the Soviet Union, is an incidence of breast cancer anywhere from two to three times higher in areas far from the Equator," said Garland, who heads the university's

cancer centre epidemiology programme.

Apart from moving, what can a woman do to lessen her odds of contracting the cancer?

Take in more vitamin D in your diet, advise Garland and UCSD colleagues Frank C. Garland and Edward D. Gorham.

The scientists theorise that the lack of sunlight leads to a deficiency of vitamin D, which has been linked to breast cancer resistance.

The body needs ultraviolet light, a component of sunlight, to utilise vitamin D consumed in food, and the farther away from the Equator the lower

the levels of ultraviolet light.

"Laboratory studies have shown that breast cancer patients with vitamin D receptors in breast tissue have improved survival compared to those without vitamin D receptors," the three men said in a report presented at the annual meeting of the American association for the advancement of science here.

"Vitamin D added to cultures of malignant breast cancer cells also inhibits their growth," they said.

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Cuba keeps one party system

HAVANA, Feb 17, (Reuters): Cuba today said it would revitalise its one-party communist system through internal reforms but ruled out the multi-party option being followed by its main political ally, the Soviet Union.

The Cuban central committee proposed no constitutional changes but called on the party to step up its political work among Cuba's 10 million people and strengthen its popular roots.

"Conditions have matured to start a concrete and practical process of perfecting the political and institutional system of the nation," the central committee of the ruling Communist Party said in a statement covering the whole front page of the party daily Granma.

It called an extraordinary meeting of the country's National Assembly for Tuesday and said the party's fourth congress would be held in the first half of 1991 at a date to be announced.

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Transmits HIV-2 Monkey, Aids linked

NEW ORLEANS, Feb 17. (AP) A gray monkey called the 'Aids monkey' almost certainly triggered an epidemic in West Africa of a disease closely related to Aids by spreading a virus to people, a researcher said yesterday.

Dr Vanessa Hirsch of Georgetown University said the monkey probably transmitted the HIV-2 virus to people sometime within the past century through a bite or some other close contact.

While HIV-2 can kill, it is not as relentlessly fatal as HIV-1, the virus responsible for acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Many kinds of African monkeys naturally harbour relatives of the human Aids virus. And while the chances of transmission from animals to people are slim, this likely has happened in the past and could occur again.

"I would say it's very dangerous to own any kind of

African primate," said Hirsch.

Hirsch presented her findings at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Many experts believe that HIV-1 spread from animals to people, as well. According to one theory, it moved into a small, geographically isolated pocket of humans in Africa sometime in the past. But the disease became epidemic only in recent years when those people moved to cities.

While no one has pinpointed the primate ancestor of HIV-1, Hirsch said the discovery of one possible candidate will be published soon in the British journal, Nature. She said that a team from the French Pasteur Institute has discovered a variety of HIV-1 in a pet chimpanzee.

"The evidence is highly suggestive of transmission from monkeys to man of HIV-2," agreed Dr Louis Martin of the Delta Regional Primate Research Centre.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

ST PETERSBURG, Florida: A Goodwill Industries worker accustomed to finding change in donated shoes can across one shoe with a bit more — \$3,000.

"I took one look at the and I said, 'oh, oh, oh,'" said Fred Kari, who has worked in a goodwill programme for the disabled for 20 years.

The \$20 and \$50 bills were in several bank envelopes marked with the name Mrs Henry Komarske and an address. Henry Komarske, who is cooperating from a recent hernia operation, answered the telephone call from Goodwill employees.

He said his wife, Martha, died recently, and he had donated some of her belongings. The Goodwill employees told the 90-year-old retired postal worker about the cash.

"I didn't know what to say," Komarske said. "It was a surprise to me. I didn't know anything about it. Until she got sick about two years ago, she took care of all the bills."

NEW YORK: Keith Haring, whose distinctive drawings on New York City subway station walls caught the eye of influential dealers and became the basis for a lucrative business, died of Aids on Friday. He was 31.

Haring, who had been diagnosed as having the Aids virus more than a year ago, died in his downtown New York City apartment, said an assistant, Margaret Shubert.

"Keith, who was in the Aids fund raising, returned Jan 18 from a trip to Europe, and soon fell ill with cold and flu-like symptoms, she said.

For the past few days, he had been under the 24-hour care of a nurse at home, she said.

Haring's work, characterised by cartoon-like human and animal figures in an energetic setting, has been exhibited world-wide. He has had 12 one-man shows, but is perhaps best known for his murals in public places.

Among these was a 300-foot (100-metre) mural he painted on the Berlin Wall in 1986, a chain of red



Smiling's a pain

Barbara Bush (shown above) kept an active schedule Friday, saying she felt great following minor skin cancer surgery that left her with a slightly swollen lip and a row of stitches beneath her nose.

The First Lady was cheerful and energetic as she toured an interior decorating exhibit to benefit the Washington Home, a health care and hospice programme with which she has long been associated.

Smiling, but not broadly, she replied "great" when asked how she felt following the outpatient operation Wednesday to remove a small basal cell cancer on her upper lip.

and black human figures on a yellow background incorporating the colours of the flag of East and West Germany. (AP)

SANTA BARBARA, California: Actor Sean Connery was caught by police driving at high speeds along a scenic highway, a la James Bond. He has admitted guilt and paid a fine, authorities said.

"007 did it. But unlike Zee Zee, he didn't fight with police," said Bob Calvert, Santa Barbara county chief trial deputy, referring to Miss Gabor's conviction for slapping a Beverly Hills policeman who stopped her Rolls-Royce.

US court reverses ruling on DES

WASHINGTON, Feb 17. (UPI) In a victory for women stricken by cancer linked in a miscarriage-prevention drug taken by their mothers, a federal appeals court ruled yesterday that circumstantial evidence can be used in lawsuits against makers of the drug.

The decision could affect hundreds of similar cases pending in courts in the United States, according to Aaron Levine, the lawyer representing women affected by the drug diethylstilbestrol, or DES.

In reversing a federal court ruling, the US circuit court of appeals for the district of Columbia found that Amy Shields, 35, of Richmond, Virginia, produced more than sufficient evidence for a reasonable jury to conclude that she had been exposed to DES.

The three-judge appeals panel ordered Shields' suit, filed against DES manufacturer Eli Lilly, back to US district court in Washington for a possible trial.

In the 1980s, DES frequently was given to pregnant women to reduce the risk of miscarriage. The Food and Drug Administration banned the drug in the 1970s after linking it to the incidence of vaginal cancer in women whose mothers took the drug during pregnancy.

Shields contracted vaginal cancer but could not find medical or pharmaceutical records to show her mother took the drug. Her mother's doctor had since died and to prove her case, she relied on testimony from her own doctors who suspected she had been exposed to the drug, her mother's description of the medication, her mother's symptoms during pregnancy and other pieces of circumstantial evidence.

The trial court found Shields failed to present conclusive proof she had been exposed to the drug.

But appeals court judge Abner Mikva, writing for the unanimous court in reversing the lower court decision, said there was enough evidence to prove exposure that the plaintiff does not have to rule out "every conceivable alternative theory" of the ailment.

A spokeswoman for Eli Lilly and Co. said the company had no comment because the case is still open.



Master sentenced

The owner of a pit bull named Wally (shown top) that mauled to death a two-year-old boy was sentenced on Friday to nearly four years in prison.

The dog's owner, Michael Patrick Barry, 40, (bottom), told Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge John Fishery that he was "full of nothing but remorse" after his dog attacked James Soto in June 1987.

The boy had wandered into Barry's yard, where investigators said the dog had been chained to guard a marijuana patch.

The judge sentenced Barry to three years and eight months in prison and fined him \$500.

"The punishment for being a wandering child is not death... by being killed by a pit bull," the judge said.

The case was the nation's first in which anyone has been convicted of manslaughter for the actions of a pet.

Fishery, after rejecting a plea from Barry's lawyer for leniency, said the court needed to make a statement that irresponsible ownership of a dog or other animal would not be tolerated.

Barry's lawyer told the court that his client, a burly labourer, had no malicious intent in owning the dog. He said he was not surprised by the prison sentence but planned to file an appeal.

Ex-soul singer Ike Turner sentenced

SANTA MONICA, Calif., Feb 17. (AP) Veteran soul singer Ike Turner was sentenced yesterday to four years in prison on cocaine charges, and a prosecutor said he hopes jail will help the 58-year-old one-time music star.

"Our hope is that when he gets out he'll do something along the lines of rehabilitation," said deputy district attorney Ralph Mayer. "He's not the type of criminal that's in any way violent or selling the drugs. He's just a 20-year abuser of the drugs who should have been caught a long time ago."

Turner admitted in 1986 that he had been addicted to cocaine for 15 years.

Following sentencing by superior court judge Robert

Altman, Turner was handed over to a sheriff's deputy for delivery to a state prison.

"It's the first time he's been to state prison," said Mayer. "Four years for a man in his late 50s, he'll be over 60 when he gets out. I think that's appropriate."

Last month, a superior court jury convicted the ex-husband of Grammy winner Tina Turner of two drug misdemeanors, driving under the influence of cocaine and being under the influence of cocaine.

The panel deadlocked on two felony charges, transportation of cocaine and possession of cocaine for sale, forcing a mistrial. Turner then pleaded guilty, avoiding another trial, Mayer said.

Foetus tests point to marrow match

Pregnancy bid pays off

LOS ANGELES, Feb 17. (UPI) A middle-aged couple appear to have beaten the medical odds in their desperate gambit to save their leukemia-stricken daughter by having a baby who can donate vital bone marrow to her sister.

Maria and Abe Ayala's baby, due in April, will be a compatible donor for her 17-year-old sister, Anissa, which means the bone marrow the baby provides will have a 70-per cent chance of defeating the form of leukemia afflicting the teenager, doctors at City of Hope National Medical Centre, in Duarte, Calif., announced yesterday.

"It was just an impossibility to say that this baby is going to match but... we are all very blessed," a tearful Maria Ayala, 43, said after learning of the likely match. "I feel that my baby is a blessing from God. When they told us, I couldn't believe it."

"This is our baby, our miracle baby," the 45-year-old father said at the same news conference.

The chances for a bone marrow match among siblings is about 25 per cent, while there is only a 1-in-20,000 chance of finding a matching donor in the general population.

"I never thought I'd be pregnant at my age," Maria Ayala said, "but when you're faced with the possibility that your child is going to die, you desperately seek, and whatever you need to do, you do it."

Tests have determined the baby, due April 13, is a girl. She will be named Marissa Eve.

No other members of the Walnut, Calif. family match Anissa's bone marrow, and a search by the national marrow donor programme of unrelated donors has failed to find a match.

In this particular case, the testing has been performed and it shows the baby is a match to the patient," said Dr Stephen J. Forman, director of hematology and bone marrow transplantation at City of Hope.

Legal and medical ethics experts expressed concern about the ramifications of the mother's decision to bear a child for the purpose of helping her daughter.

Alexander Morgan Capron, a University of Southern California professor of law and medicine, said there are important issues to consider.

"There is the psychological issue that the baby is her sister's organ bank," Capron said. "If it turns out that she is not well-matched to the sister with leukemia, in what way will they regard her? That she has failed in her mission."

Anissa Ayala, whose leukemia was diagnosed in 1988 and currently is in remission, answered critics of the pregnancy.

"We don't even know if she is going to save my life," she said. "She's going to be my baby sister. We will love her for what she is, not for what she is going to do for me."

Forman said the baby will be tested again after birth to confirm the initial results of tests on amniotic fluid, the verified the compatible tissue type.

Forman said bone marrow transplants from siblings under age 2 are fairly common and the procedure is not dangerous.

Healthy kid, better life Teen pregnancy

NEW ORLEANS, Feb 17. (AP) Poor girls who become teen-age mothers improve their economic outlook and increase their chances of having a healthy baby, a researcher said yesterday.

The findings challenge the widely held belief that teen-age pregnancy and motherhood are among the most serious problems facing the poor, said the researcher, Arline Geronimus of the University of Michigan.

"I think women to poverty know what they're doing," she said in an interview. "There are social realities in the poor that those of us doing research are unaware of."

Among her findings: — Infants in poverty-stricken communities are healthier if their mothers are in their teens rather than their 20s, because poor mothers are healthier when they are younger.

— Teen-age mothers form alliances with the fathers' families — even if they are not married — that improve the mother's economic position.

— Teen-age mothers are free to earn a living in their 20s because their children are old enough to be cared for by other family members.

— The elevated death rate for children of poor black mothers would become even higher if the women were encouraged to delay childbirth. "I would like to go on record today in opposition to the view that teen childbearing is self-destructive, irrational or anti-social behaviour," Geronimus said.

The Children's Defence Fund, a research and advocacy organisation in Washington, campaigns actively to reduce the teen-age pregnancy rate.

"If a 15- or 16-year-old becomes pregnant, there's no way that's a smart thing," said the organisation's Ray O'Brian.

Teen-age pregnancy and motherhood lock poor women into poverty and poor academic performance, he said.

However, dramatic or heartfelt concerns, their scientific basis is questionable," Geronimus said.

In a separate study, researchers reported that teen mothers were more likely to drop out of school than their childless classmates.

He said Marissa will be able to donate some of the life-giving fluid moments after she is born. Her umbilical cord will contain fluid very rich in the cells needed to regenerate Anissa's diseased marrow.

The umbilical fluid will be frozen until Anissa is ready for the transplant, following a series of chemotherapy and radiation treatments to kill the cancer cells. If additional marrow is needed, it will be taken when Marissa is about 6 months old, when the risk of complications is reduced, Forman said.

Forman said the transplant procedure, similar to a blood transfusion, would take about 15 minutes and only 3-1/2 ounces of the fluid would be taken from the baby.

Forman said other City of Hope families have considered having a baby to provide a donor, but doctors have not supported that decision.

"We never encouraged that to be the reason to bring the child into the world," he said. "Our hope is that the national registry (of donors) will grow and eliminate the need for this sort of thing."

Doctors at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis said they have known of similar cases in which parents have chosen to have a child to increase the chances of finding a marrow donor.

However, St Jude, one of the nation's foremost medical centres for treating children with cancer, has maintained a policy of not advising parents one way or the other on such a decision, hospital spokeswoman Deborah McCreery said.

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Reagan testifies in Iran-Contra affair

Ex-president to face 154 questions by defence attorney in camera

LOS ANGELES, Feb 17. (AP): Ronald Reagan was in front of the camera again, with lawyers hanging on his every word as the former president produced a videotaped version of his recollection of the Iran-Contra affair.

Reagan testified behind closed doors for about six hours yesterday, answering questions about his role in the Iran-Contra affair, the failed arms-for-hostages deal during Reagan's second term as president.

The Iran-Contra affair, the largest scandal of Reagan's eight years as president, involved the clandestine sale of arms to Iran and then the diversion of profits from those deals to resupply the Nicaraguan

rebels, known as Contras.

Reagan was compelled to testify in the case by US district judge Harold Greene, who is presiding over the trial of former White House National Security Adviser John M. Poindexter in Washington, DC.

The former president was to face 154 questions, which were drawn from 183 submitted to the court by defence attorney Richard Becker. The attorney was allowed follow-up questions if necessary but the judge prohibited him from raising additional questions on new subjects.

Security was especially rigorous for the extraordinary session, which began Friday morning at the federal courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.

Reporters were kept more than 100 yards (metres) away.

In deference to the former president, Greene allowed Reagan, 79, to give videotaped testimony near his Bel-Air area home rather than require him to appear in person at Poindexter's trial in Washington.

On Friday, Reagan entered the courtroom a few minutes after Poindexter, and the two exited separately about 6 1/2 hours later, each refusing to respond to questions shouted by the crush of reporters waiting outside.

The former security adviser goes on trial March 5 on charges of concealing from Congress assistance

by his former aide, Oliver North, to the Nicaraguan rebels and lying about a 1985 shipment of Hawk missiles to Iran.

Poindexter sought the former chief executive's testimony to bolster his contention that his secret activities had been authorised by Reagan.

"I think he was very fair in his testimony," Becker said of the president as he left court.

Greene threw out 29 of Becker's questions because they lacked relevancy or touched too closely on national secrets.

Cross-examination was to be conducted by Dan K. Webb, the chief prosecutor for Iran-Contra independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh.

Noriega cronies may get pardon

PANAMA CITY, Feb 17. (UPI): President Guillermo Endara is considering issuing a pardon to allies of former Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega charged with unconstitutional acts, a presidential aide said Thursday.

Presidential spokesman Luis Martinez said Endara may issue the pardon as part of the national reconciliation process he called for after assuming office Dec 20, the day of the US invasion. Martinez said the decree would be made "in a matter of weeks."

"He (Endara) would consider a pardon for political opponents charged with unconstitutional acts," Martinez said.

Since the invasion, more than 1,000 charges have been filed at the Attorney-General's office against hundreds of military and government officials who served under Noriega. Many charges are for violent crimes such as torture and murder but others are for abuse of power and unconstitutional acts. Martinez said the pardon would not affect persons charged with violent crimes.

Martinez said, for instance, that Endara would consider granting a pardon to the former state council — made up of cabinet ministers and armed forces commanders — which named Noriega's former classmate, Francisco Rodriguez, as president last Sept 1 after the May 7 presidential elections were annulled.

Most observers say Endara won the presidential election by a 3-to-1 margin. The council has been charged with abuse of power since they did not have the power under the Panamanian constitution to name Rodriguez president.

Deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, who claims to be a prisoner of war, was visited yesterday by a doctor and delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Jean-Marc Bornet, Red Cross delegate general for Latin America, refused to give any details of the visit when contacted in Washington.

Three of Noriega's co-defendants on drug-trafficking charges are being held in Miami.

More than 1,000 Panamanian soldiers and civilians died in the December US invasion, far higher than official figures, the head of a group of families who lost relatives in the invasion said yesterday.

"Until now it has not been known how many really died," said the group's leader, Isabel Corro, who called on Panama's new government to investigate the death toll.

'No escape from the emotional scars' US condemns torture

GENEVA, Feb 17. (Reuters): US Ambassador Armando Valladares, once tortured in Cuban prisons, accused Iran, China, Burma, Nicaragua and Cuba yesterday of using torture and committing other human rights violations.

"For those victims who are fortunate — or in some instances, unfortunate — enough to survive degrading treatment, there is never any escape from the emotional scars of being tortured," he told the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

The ambassador singled out Iran, saying it had applied psychological torture and executed more than 1,200 political prisoners in 1988 to stifle opposition.

He said the US government was alarmed at persistent reports of Chinese violations of rights in Tibet and gave the example of 45-year-old Tseten Norgye of Lhasa, who reportedly lost an eye during brutal interrogations.

Citing an Amnesty International report, Valladares criticised Burma for killing and

arresting thousands of people for political reasons.

He said the government in Nicaragua had threatened and sometimes killed opposition leaders.

Speaking in Spanish, he said that in his native Cuba dozens of reformist young people were arrested and tortured after a rally at which a crowd chanted the slogans of "perestroika" (restructuring) and "free elections."

Valladares spent 22 years as a political prisoner under Cuban leader Fidel Castro.



Ortega leads a parade of horsemen. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ortega invites Bush

Congressmen poll monitors

WASHINGTON, Feb 17. (UPI): Twelve members of Congress are members of a delegation headed by former President Jimmy Carter that will observe the Feb 25 presidential and general assembly elections in Nicaragua.

Nicaragua barred a delegation of congressional election observers appointed by President Bush in protest of continuing US non-lethal aid to the Contra guerrillas.

Congress voted in 1982 to cut off military aid to the Contras, which had failed in their efforts to overthrow Nicaragua's Cuban- and Soviet-backed government, but agreed to send food, clothes, medical supplies and other aid to the guerrillas through the elections.

Carter heads the council of freely elected heads of government, a group of election observers that included four members of Congress and which has been welcomed to Nicaragua by the government. After Managua barred the Bush-appointed delegation, Carter invited House and Senate leaders to suggest additional members of Congress for his group.

MANAGUA, Feb 17. (UPI): President Daniel Ortega said yesterday he would work with the United States "in a respectful, serious and constructive manner" if he wins the upcoming national elections, and he invited President George Bush to visit the Central American nation in advance of the balloting.

"I want to invite him, to (invite) President Bush right now to come to Nicaragua so that he can get to know Nicaraguan reality," Ortega said during a campaign rally in Boaca, 59 miles northeast of the capital.

Ortega, the candidate of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front, or FSLN, is being challenged in the Feb 25, national elections by Violeta Chamorro, the candidate of the United National Opposition, or UNO. Nicaraguan voters also will elect representatives to the country's national assembly.

Ortega, in his campaign speech, referred to UNO as the "GN-1" — a reference to the initials of the feared national guard of former dictator Anastasio Somoza, who was ousted by the Sandinista Front in July 1979.

The President suggested that the United States is concerned that the Sandinistas will win the elections.

"The President of the United States has already admitted the defeat of the GN-1 and his willingness to get along with the Nicaraguan government in the future," Ortega said.

Bolivians unmoved by drug summit

LA PAZ, Feb 17. (AP): Farmers and government officials say the Cartagena drug summit will have no immediate impact on Bolivia's anti-drug campaign.

However, the officials are pleased that the United States recognised a shared responsibility for cocaine trafficking and will provide more financial support for alternative crops to replace coca grown by Bolivian farmers.

"In the short term I don't think the Cartagena summit will have much impact on fighting cocaine trafficking," Information Minister Manfredino Kemppf told the Associated Press. "In a medium term, though, we should be able to count on greater collaboration from the United States."

President Jaime Paz Zamora attended the Thursday summit in Cartagena, Colombia, along with the presidents of Peru, Colombia and the United States.

In their communique, the four presidents noted that persuading Andean farmers to turn from coca production to legal crops would have "significant, immediate and long-term economic costs" on Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

US President George Bush pledged to request an economic aid package from Congress for fiscal 1991 to 1994 to help offset these losses, the communique said.

"Some critics say we received no firm monetary commitments," Kemppf said. "We went to Cartagena for the US to understand our position, to make a firm commitment to fight against cocaine trafficking and from there intensify the fight with greater foreign collaboration. Now the effective collaboration must come."

Evo Morales, leader of the Chapare Cocoa Leaf Farmers Union, said the Cartagena summit did not provide concrete programs to address the needs of farmers.

"In the summit declarations there is nothing clear and it does not assure us markets on prices for alternative crops. We do not trust the Bolivian or American governments," Morales said.

Pastor Velazquez, leader of the country's farmers' confederation, said that "only general positions were approved" at the summit. He said that without more funds invested in rural areas, the eradication of coca will remain "practically paralyzed."

Velazquez added that coffee is often mentioned as a possible alternative crop, but noted that even "Colombia is worried because the price for that product is so low."

Under-Secretary of Justice Roger Pando said that the Cartagena declaration "backs our position of alternative development and makes it possible for the United States and Europe to understand Bolivia's investment requirements to substitute coca leaves."

America

VCR burglar victim jailed: A buyer of a stolen videocassette recorder found it contained a homemade child sex tape, recognised the girl and gave the tape to her mother, police said in Los Angeles.

A neighbour has been jailed on molestation charges, the police said.

Ward Rafay, 28, was being held on nine counts of child molestation and one of possessing marijuana.

Rafay allegedly owned the sex tape found in a stolen videocassette recorder, prosecutor Dean Shotwell said Thursday.

Two weeks ago, Rafay reported a burglar stole a VCR from his apartment.

Evangelist testifies: An evangelist being tried for murder in Milton in Florida in the alleged exorcism death of a 4-year-old denied in an interrogation replayed Friday that the girl's mother had told him to rid the toddler of evil spirits.

The denial came in a taped interview played by prosecutors in the trial of Mary Nicholson, 40, who is charged with first-degree murder and aggravated child abuse in the February 1988 death of Kimberly McZine.

Prosecutors are trying to prove that Nicholson was instrumental in persuading the child's mother, Darlene Jackson, to starve and beat McZine in an alleged effort to rid her of six demons.

Jackson, 33, who pleaded guilty last year to third-degree murder and neglect, spent three days on the witness stand earlier this week. (UPI)

Laundering figure missing: A member of former governor Jerry Brown's administration facing trial on money-laundering charges was reported missing Friday in San Diego, prompting prosecutors to seek a warrant for his arrest.

Hours after he was reported missing, Richard T. Silberman's light-blue 1975 Mercedes Benz, which he was supposed to have driven to an appointment in Orange County Thursday night, was found in an airport parking lot at Lindbergh Field, police said.

Silberman was also seen purchasing an airline ticket Thursday afternoon on a 6:05 pm US air flight to Los Angeles International Airport, police said.

"It is not known whether Mr. Silberman boarded that flight. There is no indication at this time that foul play was involved," a police statement said. (UPI)

Mail bombings probe: A man targeted in the probe of mail bombs sent to judges and lawyers across the southeast twice appealed a case to the court on which a slain judge sat, a court official said Friday in Atlanta.

Federal Appeals Court Judge Robert Vance was one of two victims of the bombs sent to targets in Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

Walter Leroy Moody, one of three men investigated by the FBI in connection with the mail bombings, was charged in 1983 with attempted murder in Florida.

The case resulted in a mistrial, and Moody filed a lawsuit alleging malicious prosecution and false arrest. It was thrown out, and he appealed the dismissal in December 1988.

A panel of the Florida Federal Appeals Court, including Vance, dismissed Moody's appeal. A court official, who asked that his name not be used, said the panel did not hold a hearing and Moody never appeared before the court. (AP)

Out of many come one: New York State officials Friday started the ball rolling toward revision of history textbooks to reflect the roles of ethnic groups other than white Europeans.

State education commissioner Thomas Sobol said he doesn't want to rewrite facts, but rather include "differing perspectives on the same fact."

Holding up a nickel, Sobol said that the textbooks should reflect the "pluribus" as well as the "unum" in the nation's motto of "e pluribus unum" — out of many come one. (UPI)

Hazelwood didn't seem drunk: A coast guard investigator said in Anchorage that Joseph Hazelwood smelled of alcohol but otherwise did not appear drunk the night his Exxon Valdez went aground, causing the nation's worst oil spill.

Mark Delcor, one of the first officers to board the Exxon Valdez after it rammed a reef last March 24, testified Friday that he called for someone to administer blood and urine tests to the crew after first encountering Hazelwood and smelling liquor on his breath. (AP)

No clue to Colombia kidnaps: Bogota, Feb 17. (AP): Prayers were held Friday for one of three US men kidnapped to protest President Bush's visit to Colombia, and police said they had no leads in the investigation.

"We have absolutely nothing...no leads at all," a police spokesman in the northwestern city of Medellin told the Associated Press. He asked to remain anonymous.

Parishioners in the Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, run by Rev. Francisco Amico Ferrari of New York since his 1987 arrival in Colombia, held a "praying day" Friday.

Amico, the founder of the Basilian priests' branch in the poor neighbourhood of San Andres, was abducted

NEWS IN BRIEF



Borg's in court

Former tennis player Bjorn Borg and his wife Italian singer Loredana Berté arrive at a court in Stockholm Feb 16 where they are involved in a legal case with a Swedish newspaper. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jews, blacks together

Dinkins hails the alliance

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida, Feb 17. (AP): New York mayor David Dinkins emphasised yesterday the "historic alliance" between Jews and blacks as he addressed the national convention of the American Jewish Congress.

"This alliance has been the bulwark of progress in this nation over our lifetime," he said in a speech opening the four-day meeting. "No step toward social justice has been taken by this nation without Jewish leaders and African leaders leading the way. Our two communities have a common heritage of working for the betterment of all."

Dinkins, elected last year as New York's first black mayor, said he was supported by people of varied ethnic, social, religious and sexual backgrounds "in affirmation of the tolerance and imagination that makes New York so exciting."

Manhattan District Attorney's office said Friday it is sending three top prosecutors to Guatemala to train Central American judges to use more effective criminal investigation methods.

The training project begins Monday when assistant district attorneys Consuelo Fernandez, James Rodriguez and Alberto Roldan fly to Guatemala, said their boss, Manhattan district attorney Robert Morgenthau.

Under the Guatemalan system of justice, there are jury trials, but judges take the lead role in directing the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases.

The judge directs the investigation and compiles a written record of the findings. The record is then sent to another judge for adjudication of the case, based entirely on the record forwarded from the investigating magistrate.

Because of the tremendous caseload, the judges rarely examine witnesses in court. Instead, they rely on witnesses' depositions, which usually are taken by court clerks.

"The justice system in Guatemala is entirely different from what we are familiar with in the United States," Morgenthau said.

"But it does rely on some of the fundamental skills that our prosecutors are trained in." (UPI)

Labour oppose polls under Avril: Haiti's biggest labour unions said Friday they would oppose any elections organised by the military government of Prosper Avril, which they said is not committed to a transfer of power to freely elected civilians.

Virtually all political parties, angered by a crackdown on government critics in January, had refused to take part in presidential elections scheduled for October. (AP)

Narcotics detective killed in car blast

PATCHOGUE, New York, Feb 17. (UPI): An off-duty undercover narcotics detective was killed Thursday by a bomb that had been planted in his car, authorities said.

Detective Dennis Wustenhoff, 41, died from injuries he suffered in a blast that apparently was triggered either when he sat in the driver's seat or turned on the ignition. Suffolk county police commissioner Daniel Guido said.

Wustenhoff "was probably assassinated, and it was job-connected," Guido said of the undercover narcotics investigator. "We don't know whether it was for revenge or was connected to a current case."

Reputed Bogota drug kingpin Escobar named in Florida indictment

TAMPA, Florida, Feb 17. (Agencies): Pablo Escobar Gaviria, reputed leader of the Medellin Drug Cartel, was indicted yesterday by a state grand jury with 13 others on charges they helped smuggle more than 8,000 pounds (3,629 kilograms) of cocaine through Florida.

Escobar, last reported at large in Colombia, already faces federal drug charges in Miami, where he is one of 15 co-defendants of Manuel Noriega, Panama's deposed leader.

The Medellin Cartel, based in the Colombian city of that name, is said to be responsible for up to 80 per cent of the cocaine imported to the United States.

Agents said the nine-court racketeering and conspiracy indictment is the culmination of a 15-month investigation.

A principal defendant arrested yesterday was Tarpon Springs attorney James M. Timonere.

Agents alleged he was "soldier in the Colombian drug organisation," helping to hide profits from drugs smuggled into the St. Petersburg area and shipped to New York and other large cities.

Timonere was in the Pinellas County jail last night on \$250,000 bond.

Escobar was named in the 1988 federal drug-trafficking indictment that led to the arrest of Noriega. That indictment accused Escobar, as head of the cartel, with bribing Noriega to turn Panama into a transit and processing point for Colombian cocaine.

Noriega was arrested after the US invasion of Panama in December and is awaiting trial in

Sum Jones, an agent of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement said, however, that the central figure in the operation was Escobar.

Escobar, whose full name is Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria, was already wanted in Florida, Louisiana and Colorado on charges of trafficking in cocaine, marijuana and possibly heroin.

I'll be exonerated: Barry

Mayor undergoing treatment

WASHINGTON, Feb 17. (AP): Mayor Marion Barry contends that he will be exonerated of new drug-related charges, but a city official is calling for his resignation and a top adviser wonders whether the mayor has any political future.

Barry, 53, was indicted Thursday on five misdemeanour counts of cocaine possession and three felony counts of lying to a grand jury questioning him on drug use.

US district judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, who was assigned the case today, tentatively scheduled Barry's arraignment for next Wednesday.

Closer advisers to Barry said Thursday that the mayor will leave a Florida drug treatment clinic by the end of the month to continue treatment elsewhere. Barry entered the Hanley-Hazelden clinic in West Palm Beach four days after his Jan 18 arrest on a cocaine possession charge.

Barry, in a defiant statement issued through his office, said the indictment was "a continuation of the political lynching and



Barry says he is giving no thought to resigning.

Barry has steadfastly denied ever using drugs, and his statement said he was undergoing treatment for "the disease of alcoholism."

The mayor said he is giving no thought to resigning.

But one aide, who asked not to be identified, said the indictment dealt "a crippling blow, an absolutely devastating assault" to Barry's re-election chances if he seeks a fourth four-year term in November's election.

Asked if Barry should resign, city councilwoman Betty Ann Kane said: "It might be in his best interests and the city's best interests. As a person who cares about the city, I would make that recommendation, now that it's gotten to this point."

The Washington Post said in editorial Friday Barry "has lost any last claim to a position of leadership" and should resign.

"For the sake of the city — and of all the talent that stands ready to enlist public support for new leadership in City Hall — Mr Barry should let go — entirely," the newspaper said.

excesses of the Justice Department in this multi-year, multimillion-dollar effort to investigate me."

"Now that we will be moving into the courtroom — which is where this case should be tried, not in the press — I am relieved," Barry said. "I know that when a trial is held, I will be exonerated."

Drexel, Trump and Perrier in troubled times

Yuppies sans symbols

NEW YORK, Feb. 17, (Reuters). For stylish young professionals, the high-flying, affluent 1980's have gone to an abrupt end, six weeks behind schedule. In a week, they lost three key symbols of their get-rich-quick success.

Known as yuppies, the young upwardly mobile professionals here couldn't even drown their sorrows in Perrier.

Just-bond king Drexel Burnham Lambert surrendered to financial troubles, arrogant billionaire Donald Trump became a target of lurid tabloid reports and Perrier — the mineral water that stood for a health-conscious decade — pulled its product from store shelves world-wide.

In one week you have Trump, Drexel and Perrier — you couldn't ask for much better evidence of a decade's passing," said Kurt Andersen, co-editor of the satirical magazine *Spy*.

"Drexel, which dominated the market for the highest, high-yield junk bonds that fuelled many 1980s takeovers, put itself up for sale on Monday to

avoid financial collapse.

Wall Street experts said there was little interest in buying the once-powerful firm. After pleading guilty to insider-trading charges and paying \$650 million in fines, it still has potential legal troubles.

Drexel's announcement further tarnished the glitter of Wall Street.

Only a few years ago ambitious college graduates made hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in their first jobs there. They justified that with the 1980s business mantra "greed is good" and didn't worry too much about how it might all end.

"It looks like it's over for us," said one of Drexel's 5,300 employees last week. "We were told: 'Look for a job.'"

On Fifth Avenue, Donald Trump, the man who personified the self-absorbed, larger-than-life image of the 1980s and seemed to have the world at his feet, faced his own apparently self-made problems.

The man who named his glitziest buildings after himself and loves to manipulate media coverage had reports of his alleged philandering splashed on the front pages of New York tabloids amid what promised to be a messy divorce.

And Perrier, which in 1988 sold Americans \$550 million worth of its pure French spring water, issued a massive recall after it found some traces of the solvent benzene.

Drexel, at least, seemed to elicit little sympathy. "My guess would be that some people will think that this in fact will be a good thing — here are all these high-fliers who got what's coming to them," said Charles O'Reilly, a University of California sociologist.

Said Andersen, whose magazine made its reputation on celebrity-bashing: "I don't doubt that within some relatively short time they will find some new vehicle to live the kind of good life with other people's money."

Trump playing waiting game

NEW YORK, Feb. 17, (UPI). Billionaire Donald Trump has no immediate plans to file for divorce but is waiting to see if his estranged wife, Ivana, will go to court to invalidate a pre-nuptial agreement giving her \$20 million to \$25 million, his attorneys said yesterday.

Jay Goldberg and Stanford Lotwin, representing the real estate development tycoon, said divorce is not the issue at this time.

"The issue in the case is whether the agreement can be attacked successfully," said Goldberg. "My position is that she is trying to knock down a steel door with a feather."

"The law is clear that this agreement cannot be attacked. She has to show that the original agreement and three subsequent updates she signed were unconscionable — that a sane person of normal mental abilities would not have entered into them."

"It's difficult to see how one agreement, let alone four. No, this is just a publicity circus for a person who does not have the law on her side."

Earlier in the day Lotwin announced that no legal action has been started or filed by his client, indicating Trump has chosen to play a waiting game with his wife.

"We have no such plans," Lotwin said. "My client, Donald, has no plans to sue Ivana at this time."

Mrs Trump's parents have joined her from Czechoslovakia for the drawn-out marital battle that has been called "the divorce of the new decade."

Trump, 43, walked out on his glamorous wife last Friday. Ivana, 40, is holding out for more than the sum provided in the prenuptial agreement, which also gives her a Greenwich, Conn., mansion and custody of her three children. She signed the agreement in 1977 and agreed to three updates since, most recently two years ago.

She also is hanging on to her job as president and managing director of Trump's prestigious Plaza Hotel and the 50-room duplex apartment in Trump Tower that she once shared with her husband.

She was joined there by her electrical engineer father, Miles Zelnick, who flew in from Prague to be with her for his 41st birthday next Monday. Mrs Trump has told friends she would prefer a reconciliation with Trump to any other solution to their marital troubles.

She has been encouraged to seek a reconciliation by her mother, Maria Zelnickova, who has been staying in New York since the Trump marriage began to break up during their Christmas stay in Aspen, Colo., last December.

It was in Aspen that she had a confrontation with Maria Maples, 26, an aspiring actress and former Miss USA contestant from Georgia, who reportedly is the "other woman" in the Trump breakup.

The New York Post reported that Maples "once gushed to friends that Donald Trump gave her 'the best sex I've ever had' and described him as 'a wonderful, wonderful lover.'"



Gung ho!

Alberto Stalk of the Canadian Kawanakee Indian tribe, famous for their ability to fearlessly work and scale New York's skyscrapers, climbs up the Eiffel Tower in Paris during the filming of an adventure series for French television. (Reuters wirephoto)

De Klerk delays talks

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 17, (Agencies). President Frederik de Klerk plans to study the African National Congress' decision to send a delegation to South Africa for direct talks before he comments on the proposal, a spokesman said today.

The ANC's announcement yesterday was the first official response to the racial reforms De Klerk launched Feb. 2 that included the lifting of the 30-year ban on the ANC and the release of black leader Nelson Mandela. "Obviously the president is not going to react to newspaper or wire service reports," said Casper Venter, director of liaison and information in the state president's office. "He is waiting for a copy of the complete text and in his own time he will decide how to answer it."

In its announcement issued at the end of a three-day conference in Lusaka, the ANC's national executive committee also said it would re-establish the movement in South Africa for the first time in 30 years and prepare for the return of exiles. Earlier this week, De Klerk said the government was ready to enter into immediate talks with the ANC. In an interview with the ABC programme "Nightline," De Klerk said the ANC must "walk across the threshold and start talking."

If the direct talks occur, they would be the first between a South African president and the 78-year-old ANC.

The ANC wants De Klerk to end a three-year-old state of emergency, repeal restrictive legislation, halt political trials and remove troops from black townships.

ANC sources said talks with the South African president would focus on how to implement the legislation of the movement. De Klerk lifted a 30-year-old ban on the ANC on February 2.

The ANC, based in Lusaka, says its political activities are hampered by the state of emergency and other repressive laws. "You cannot give one the right

Sidelights

Zulu chief criticises Mandela: Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthezi has accused Nelson Mandela of serious errors of judgement, highlighting deep political divisions between black South Africans. Buthezi, the first prominent black to criticise Mandela since his release from 27 years in jail on Sunday, took the black nationalist leader to task on Friday over his attitude to inter-black violence in Natal province.

He quoted Mandela as saying there was evidence of South African police siding with the Zulu Inkatha Movement in clashes with the United Democratic Front (UDF). "Sadly the facts do not tally with the interpretation which Dr Mandela places on them and he should seriously question those who give him the kind of background information which leads him to make these kind of serious errors of judgement," he said.

"Where Dr Mandela I ask, is your brand of friendship?" Buthezi, political leader of South Africa's biggest tribe, has substantial support in the white community because of his opposition to economic sanctions against Pretoria and to strikes and consumer boycotts. (Reuters)

Mandela release one step ahead: Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Friday Nelson Mandela's release marks an important step in efforts to end apartheid, but stressed the need to continue pushing for equal rights in South Africa.

"It is now a practical possibility that, working together, the people of South Africa will be able to establish a non-racial democracy with equal rights for all," Perez de Cuellar said. "That has been a primary aim of the United Nations, and its realisation is now within reach."

The UN chief made his comments during a meeting of the UN special committee against apartheid called to mark the release of the anti-apartheid leader after 27 years of imprisonment in South Africa.

"The liberation of Nelson Mandela is not an end in itself, but a milestone in the democratic process which must lead to the liberation of the people of South Africa from the system of apartheid," Perez de Cuellar said. (AP)

Winnie Mandela becomes a wife: After more than 30 years of marriage, Winnie Mandela is finally learning to live with her husband. "I've been giving orders, and now I have to take them," Mrs Mandela said with a laugh during an interview Thursday in the couple's home in Soweto.

Mrs Mandela, a social worker, married Nelson Mandela in 1958 when she was 24 and he was a 40-year-old African National Congress leader on trial for treason.

He was acquitted in 1960, went underground a year later, was arrested in 1962 and remained in prison until Sunday. During his more than 27 years in jail, Mrs Mandela raised their two daughters alone and became a forceful and controversial anti-apartheid activist in her own right. (AP)

to life while it remains illegal to breathe, eat and drink," an ANC source said.

Mandela, 71, said this week the removal of these restrictive laws would break down obstacles to talks. "These are the obstacles holding us up. However, I think the atmosphere may be conducive to negotiations," he added.

Western diplomats held out hope of a compromise on negotiations. "It is very certain that the two groups will have to reach some form of compromise. The ANC does not have to be greedy in its demands and the South African government has to give away quite a bit," one said.

Mandela said yesterday he is ready to meet De Klerk to try to launch talks on resolving South Africa's racial conflict.

New El Nino caution

Climate change forecast

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, (AP). Government scientists say changing water temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean may be signalling the start of a new El Nino that could cause powerful climate changes world-wide.

Current conditions resemble those of 1986, a relatively mild version of El Nino, which has caused widespread devastating weather in the past.

"The current situation deserves very close attention," the federal climate analysis centre said in a statement yesterday.

The El Nino in 1982-83 led to weather changes that were blamed for 1,500 deaths and billions of dollars in damage across the globe.

"We don't want to say something is developing that could be like that, because that was exceptional," Dr Vernon Kousky of the climate centre said in a telephone interview.

The 1982-83 El Nino was blamed for worsening the devastating drought in Africa, causing severe winter storms to come ashore in California, spawning the first typhoon to strike French Polynesia in 75 years — followed by five more in five months — deluging Peru and Ecuador with torrential rains and promoting the worst drought in two centuries in Australia.

The United Nations estimated overall damage at between \$2 billion and \$8 billion.

Scientists suggest that was a once-in-a-lifetime event, however. The El Nino in 1986-87 was closer in average, bringing some weather changes but not the massive damage of the earlier event.

Formally called El Nino-Southern Oscillations, or ENSO, these events are characterised by unusually warm water conditions in the Eastern tropical Pacific Ocean and by changes in air pressure over different parts of that ocean.

Water temperatures near the international dateline have risen 1 and 2 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. While that may seem small, the great amount of energy needed to warm such a large mass of water can make it a significant increase.

Years ago, when such changes tended to be the first noticed by South American fishermen around Christmas, the phenomenon was given the name El Nino, which is Spanish for child, a reference to the Baby Jesus.

Current conditions are similar to those prior to the 1986 event, said Kousky. But he added: "I can't really say how firm it looks... There is nothing to say this will hang in there tough and continue on. We're just monitoring it carefully."

If it does build into a full-fledged El Nino, the impact could be felt world-wide.

The problem is relocating warm water from one side of the Pacific Ocean to the other.

Storms hit US, France, Germany

NEW YORK, Feb. 17, (AP). Flooding forced hundreds of people to evacuate their homes in southern states yesterday after thunderstorms spawned tornadoes and dumped up to 9 inches (23 cm) of rain. The storms still had no power in central and northern states after snow and ice storms.

"All of a sudden the roof went one way and the floor went the other way," Frank Higginbotham said of a tornado that struck his home in Alabama. "I cradled my daughter in my chest and we were blown through the wall into another room."

In western states, the strongest Pacific storm this winter swept through California and Oregon on Friday, snarling traffic and closing schools. The storms dumped as much as 2 feet (60 cm) of snow in the mountain of Oregon.

An estimated 133,000 customers had no electricity Friday from Illinois in the Midwest to Massachusetts on the eastern coast.

One man apparently drowned Friday in a raging North Carolina river. Traffic accidents on ice and snow had killed at least 11 people since Wednesday — four each in Kansas and Minnesota, two in Michigan and one in Missouri.

In Georgia, a tornado destroyed 15 homes and injured 10 people in Carrollton, the National Weather Service said. At least 300 people were evacuated Friday from Triana in northwestern Georgia after as much as 9 inches of rain fell and the Chattahoochee river rushed through town.

Authorities could not determine if a dam on the Chattahoochee at Triana had burst because "it's 10 feet (3 metres) under water and the currents are so fast going across it that they can't see the dam," said sheriff's deputy Tammy Owings.

Roads were flooded, bridges were out and mudslides and rockslides were reported in several mountainous areas of Georgia.

In nearby North Carolina, up to 6 inches (15 cm) of rain fell and the body of a man who apparently was swept away from his roof last night was found downstream on the French Broad river, police said.

An apparent tornado struck rural central Alabama early Friday, tearing apart a fire department building and destroying several mobile homes, sheriff's officers said.

Flooding forced hundreds of Alabama residents to evacuate. Water was over the gas pumps of a service station in one town.

Heavy rainfall also forced evacuations in Tennessee.

The French Interior Ministry reported bad weather causing floods and avalanches in different parts of France this week left at least 14 people dead and two missing.

Avalanches in the Alps and flooding in the central, northeast and western regions of France affected hundreds of thousands of people since the weather took a turn for the worse Wednesday.

At least three people drowned in two days of flooding in southern West Germany as officials reported that the situation had improved in most affected areas.

The floods, which stopped barge and ship traffic on the Rhine and Neckar rivers in Baden-Wuerttemberg state, were brought on by heavy storms with torrential rain and snow that hit Switzerland, France and West Germany late Wednesday and much of Thursday.



Martin with his youngest son Alex. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ransom paid for freedom

PAMPLONA, Spain, Feb. 17, (Reuters). A ransom of 300 million pesetas (£1.5 million) was paid for a kidnapped Spanish businessman held by Basque separatists for 84 days, state security officials said today.

Industrialist Adolfo Villoslada Martin, 49, was in good health after an ordeal confined in a small room, apparently below ground, in this town 400 km (250 miles) northeast of Madrid.

The businessman, who is married with three children, hitchhiked home after untying himself from a tree where his ETA (Basque homeland and freedom) kidnappers had left him yesterday.

Officials said the ransom was paid in foreign currency in Brussels, through a company owned by the Villoslada family, but gave no further details. Villoslada's family has yet to confirm any ransom was paid.

The head of the Navarra government, Jesus Garcia Villoslada, expressed concern today at the payment to ETA, fearing the money would be used to buy arms.

"This man is free because he has paid money and everyone knows what this will be used for," he told journalists.

Villoslada was released as ETA leaders sought to reopen negotiations with the Madrid government, stalled after three months of talks in Algiers last year.

Labour leads Tories in polls

LONDON, Feb. 17, (Kuna). The British opposition Labour Party has increased its lead over the ruling Conservative Party to 12 percentage points, according to the latest opinion poll published here today.

The poll, conducted by NOP for the Independent newspaper and BBC television, gave Labour 48 per cent, the Conservatives 36 per cent, the Liberal Democrats six per cent, the Green Party five per cent, the Social Democratic Party three per cent and others two per cent.

Train, tractor crash, 3 dead

At least three people were killed and several others wounded when the train Eurocity 'Gallie' collided with a small tractor with two wagons and derailed Friday morning in the Valais.

Composed uniquely of sleeping compartments, the 'Gallie' was cruising at 120 km per hour at the time of the accident at the entry of the train station of Saxon.

Six wagons of the 'Gallie' derailed and overturned. The tractor, used for maintenance work was on rail 1, which is reserved for direct passages.

Picture shows pedestrians on an overpass looking down at the twisted wreckage of 'Gallie'. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Charles fails to score, but team wins

VERO BEACH, Florida, Feb. 17, (AP). Prince Charles didn't score, but his team won the first of two polo matches the heir to the British throne is to play this weekend for charity.

Nearly 2,000 polo fans and royalty watchers came out to see the 40-year-old Prince of Wales and his Windsor Park teammates defeat Canada's Maple Leaf squad 11-7 yesterday afternoon at the Windsor Park Polo Club, located about 10 miles (16 kilometres) north of Vero Beach in the community of Orchid.

The prince arrived in Vero Beach yesterday under the watchful eyes of British and US security officers. The polo match was his first public appearance in a weeklong visit to the United States.

Wearing a cream-coloured uniform with red letters, Prince Charles failed to add any points to his team's effort but played hard enough to break the top off his mallet. Justin Fletcher, 18, of Vero Beach was working at the mallet and got to keep the mallet when the prince had it replaced.

"I think I'll frame it," Fletcher said.

In yesterday's first match, White Birch — featuring Gonzalo Pineda, rated by many as the world's top polo player — defeated Ponte Vedra 12-10 to advance.

The prince's team will play White Birch tomorrow. The teams are competing for the Prince of Wales Cup, which the prince's team won 10-7 last year over Greenwich at the Windsor Club.



Doi casts an absentee ballot at a polling station. (Reuters wirephoto)



Hamada waves to supporters. (Reuters wirephoto)

90 million Japanese go to polls today

LDP heading for victory

TOKYO, Feb. 17, (Reuters): Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, shuffling off scandals over money and sex, headed for a national election victory on Sunday that would extend its 34-year hold on power.

Big gains in Parliament were also predicted for the Japan Socialist Party, headed by Takako Doi, Japan's first woman political leader.

The conservative, pro-business government party appeared set for a clear majority as the election campaign ended today.

An eve-of-poll voter survey published by the daily Asahi Shimbun showed nearly 40 per cent ready to back the LDP, more than at the last lower house election in 1986, when the party held power in a landslide with 295 out of a total 512 seats.

But the Asahi poll of more than 100,000 voters also projected major advance for the JSP, the main opposition group. Analysts said it should win at least 130 seats.

The left-wing party held just 85 seats when Parliament was dissolved last month but the predicted gain would not be enough on its own to wrest power from the LDP.

About 90 million are eligible to vote on Sunday in 130 constituencies across the country. Voting begins at 7 am (2200 GMT Saturday) and ends at 6 pm (0900 GMT Sunday).

First returns are expected from around 7.30 pm (1030 GMT) on Sunday and computer projections of the results could be available as early as 10.30 pm (1330 GMT).

The agreement marked a major step toward improving relations between the two countries, which have no diplomatic relations.

The Transportation Ministry announced that it has approved an air accord that Korean Air (KAL) concluded with the Soviet state airliner, Aeroflot.

Hamadas' debate reform

Wife wants to create second conservative party

URAWA, Japan, Feb. 17, (AP): Playing down their differences, a husband and wife duo today debated how to reform the country's scandal-ridden politics.

Confronting each other on the last day of campaigning, each spoke from trucks parked along the boundary of their respective electoral districts in suburb of Tokyo.

Takujiro and Makiko Hamada argued about how the country should restore trust in Japan's political system.

"I am fighting from the stance of the Liberal Democrats and will reform the Liberal Democratic Party from within," said Takujiro Hamada, a three-term lawmaker.

"Makiko Hamada is fighting from the stance that reform must take place from outside the party. But what we are aiming for is the same."

Japan has been governed for 34 years by the conservative Liberal Democratic Party, which has suffered a loss of credibility in a series of influence-buying and sex scandals.

Makiko, a former stewardess for Japan Air Lines who met and married her husband while a student at Tokyo University, emphasised that her candidacy as an independent was meant to help talented politicians such as her husband who were constrained by power politics in the governing party.

"I believe from my heart that Takujiro Hamada is a very good politician, a serious politician, a politician who Japan needs. But is the Liberal Democratic Party really making good the type of policies Takujiro Hamada is proposing — the great forecasts the party is making?" she asked.

The big losers on Sunday are likely to be the centrist opposition parties which have done little to distinguish themselves from the LDP and have shown scant inclination to join the JSP.

The ruling party's chances seemed further enhanced by a forecast for Sunday of fine, sunny weather across most of the country.

Throughout the two-week campaign the LDP tried to divert voters' focus away from a series of scandals and an unpopular sales tax which cost it control of the less powerful upper house last July for the first time since 1955.

Analysts say people are now more cynical than angry at the involvement of top party figures in the Recruit "shares-for-favours" row, a previous prime minister's affair with a geisha, and the clumsily-introduced sales tax.

Pausing periodically during his speech to thank her husband for his support and apologise to irate motorists blocked by the rally in Saitama prefecture north of Tokyo, Mrs Hamada said she intended to work toward creating a second conservative party to revive competition in Japan's political system.

"To realise your ideals," of bringing better government to the people, she said, addressing her husband, "I want to start building a new conservative party based among the people."

Mrs Hamada, 47, announced her candidacy two months ago over the wishes of her husband, who also is 47, and to the surprise of many in this country where wives have traditionally been expected to obey their husbands.

Her husband has been linked to the so-called Recruit scandal, in which the information conglomerate Recruit Corp has been accused of trying to buy influence with many of Japan's most influential politicians, bureaucrats and business executives.

The 13-year political veteran told the usual group of supporters and journalists at the joint rally that he was convinced the Liberal Democratic Party was still on the right track and that the party needed to undertake thorough internal reform to set Japan right.

"It is a fact that the Liberal Democratic Party has worked very hard through various periods and has passed through many changes," he said. "I am convinced that by going with the Liberal Democratic Party, it can reestablish trust and revive a stable government."

Following the 30-minute rally, husband and wife shook hands and hurried off to continue campaigns in their respective districts.

10 pc US troops cut in Japan

Cheney to tell Tokyo of long-term plan

TOKYO, Feb. 17, (Reuters): US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney will tell Japan during a visit next week he plans a 10 per cent cut in US troop strength here, Kyodo News Agency reported today, quoting government sources.

Cheney is due in Tokyo from the Philippines on Tuesday on the last leg of an Asian visit.

He confers on Thursday with Juro Matsumoto, director general of Japan's defence agency (ministry).

Cheney was expected to tell Matsumoto the United States would withdraw gradually about 5,000 troops or 10 per cent of total US troop

strength in Japan over an extended period, Kyodo said.

The defence secretary is under pressure from Congress to reduce military spending, and officials say he has plans for a 10 to 12 per cent cut in the 102,000 US troops in the Pacific region.

Kyodo said the withdrawal would not reduce any military deterrence as it will exclude frontline troops.

Matsumoto would express Japan's hope that the US policy would not adversely affect the strategic and functional role of its forces in Japan, it added.

Facing new threats in Golden Triangle drug war

Opium king Khun Sa fights for control

MAE AI, Thai-Burmese border. Feb. 17, (Reuters): Opium warlord Khun Sa is fighting new threats to his control over smuggling routes in the Golden Triangle, which had a bumper drug crop last year.

Thai border patrol police say rival bandit armies have stepped up attacks on drug-trafficking routes in the area in the past several weeks to try to seize control of a major exit point for last year's record production of opium, which is refined into heroin.

"This is our last shot at cleaning up the resistance," said

Colonel Khaun Sai, foreign affairs co-ordinator for Khun Sa's Muang Tai Army (MTA).

Bandit armies have been fighting for decades for control over the Golden Triangle, straddling remote and unpoliced corners of Thailand, Laos, Burma and China.

Breakaway elements of the Burma Communist Party, scattered and driven into exile in 1988-89 by a government campaign, have regrouped with Wa ethnic rebels to try to wrest control of trafficking routes from the MTA.

The two sides have been

locked in combat for the past few weeks over the exit at Maung-tun (Doi Lang) just inside Burma, thought to be the Golden Triangle's main gateway.

New smuggling routes and big poppy harvests in this mountainous South-East Asia as the main source of heroin reaching the West, narcotics experts in Thailand say. Opium is made from the poppy flower.

Thai narcotics officials said last year's opium crop reached 1,200 tonnes, and may double this year.

They blamed American cuts in

aid to Rangoon after the Burmese army squashed a nationwide uprising in 1988. Increased tension in Burmese cities and a guerrilla war in the south had also diverted resources from the area, they said.

The mainly ethnic Shan MTA claims to have built up its strength from 8,000 in 1985 to nearly 20,000 at present.

Chin Meng, spokesman for the United Wa States Army (UWSA), said 4,000 Wa troops were sent into the area to capture one of Khun Sa's three major strongholds at Doi Lang, opposite Chiang Mai province.

Filipino Muslims vote amid violence

Attempt to end insurgency by allowing more local rule

MANILA, Feb. 17, (Agencies): Voters in Muslim-dominated southern provinces went to the polls yesterday to elect their first autonomous Muslim government, despite a wave of bombings, political brawls and ballot theft.

The elections are being held under a plan by President Corazon Aquino to meet popular demand and blunt a Muslim insurgency in the region by allowing more local rule.

Four candidates were running for regional governor, seven for vice-governor, and 137 for 21 assembly seats in four Muslim-dominated provinces in the south, according to commission on election records.

The four provinces — Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu —

Delima. He was interviewed by a local radio station from Cotabato City, 896 kilometres (550 miles) southeast of Manila.

Esperon said unidentified armed men snatched five ballot boxes in the town of Buldon in Maguindanao province.

He gave no details, but local radio reports from the area said the men were followers of one of the candidates and pursuing soldiers killed as many as three of them.

Meanwhile, 12 men were hurt in a brawl among followers of opposing candidates in the town of Marantao in nearby Lanao del Sur province. No arrests were reported.

Local radio reports also said armed men seized ballot boxes, and gun battle occurred in the Maguindanao towns of Matanago, Buluan and Barira. Balloting was cancelled in the village of Gata.

Critics have questioned the viability of the autonomous region, saying that the four provinces are among the poorest in the country, lack adequate communications and transportation, and are not even contiguous.

The regional government will control its own police force and take responsibility for taxation, natural resources, economic development and education.

Responsibility for foreign affairs, defence and customs remains with Mrs Aquino's government.

The Moro National Liberation Front, a Muslim guerrilla group, has opposed the plan as inadequate and vowed to continue its nearly 20-year rebellion to secede.

About 50 armed men ambushed and killed a police station commander and eight of his officers this morning and then fled with the slain officers' firearms, an official said.

One policeman who survived the attack fired at the assailants, wounding some of them, said Leo Zaragoza, vice-mayor of nearby Kapaigan town, about 808 kilometres (505 miles) southeast of Manila.

Zaragoza, interviewed on radio station DXBB, quoted police investigators as saying the victims were responding to a report of a last night robbery in a village outside Kapaigan.

He said about 50 armed men positioned along the highway fired at the policeman's jeep as it passed through the village of Marpat at about 7:20 am today (2320 GMT yesterday), killing the nine men.

Among those killed was station commander police Cpl Artemio Trisiga.

The military has identified the town as being infiltrated by the Communist New People's Army.

Government troops have been sent to pursue the attackers.

In other violence, the state-run Philippine news agency reported today that six communist rebels and four soldiers were killed in a clash last Thursday in the central Philippine island of Samar.

In other development military authorities, using bomb-sniffing dogs, imposed tight security around the Philippine Military Academy for tomorrow's graduation rites where Aquino is to be the main guest, the academy superintendent said.

In Cotabato, government forces battled rebels trying to disrupt voting today for an autonomous Muslim government in four southern provinces, leaving at least six people dead, officials said.

Initial reports showed a close contest for governor between Ali Dimaporo, a political ally of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and Zairias Candao, Aquino's candidate.

Election officials reported light turnout among the 900,000 registered voters in the balloting for 25 elective positions in the region. Results are not expected until next week.

military said at least six people, three rebels and three soldiers, were killed when government troops battled Muslim separatist guerrillas snatching ballot boxes in Buldon town, Maguindanao, 500 miles (800 km) south of Manila. The rebels have vowed to sabotage the elections.

Despite the incidents, military officials said balloting in the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi Tawi under sunny skies was generally peaceful.

Cheney plays down snub

HONG KONG, Feb. 17, (AP): US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said today he plans to play down his highly publicised spat with Philippine President Corazon Aquino and focus on "the things that unite us" during his talks next week in Manila.

"I would hope that any unpleasantness is minimised," Cheney said during an interview aboard the US air force jet carrying him to this British colony from Seoul, South Korea.

Cheney's schedule today included lunch with Hong Kong Gov. Sir David Wilson. He planned to meet tomorrow with the US Ambassador to the Philippines, Nicholas Platt, before travelling to Manila on Monday.

Cheney decided last week to shorten his stay in the Philippines by a day after Aquino announced she would refuse to see him because of negative US press coverage of her government and US payments for the use of six military bases in the Philippines.

Cheney is on a two-week tour of the Pacific rim to reassess the US military role in the region. He was expected to inform the Philippines and Japanese governments that they can expect 10 per cent to 12 per cent cut in US troops based in Asia over the next three years, and that the US Congress is unlikely to keep paying as much for their support as in the past.

In South Korea, Cheney reaffirmed Washington's "unequivocal" security commitment to that nation but said the United States plans by 1993 to cut 10 per cent to 12 per cent of the 120,000 American troops stationed in Asia.

He said some 5,000 troops would be withdrawn from South Korea and another 97,000 from 9,400 pulled out of the Philippines and Japan. Details of the cuts will be worked out later, he said.

"We are not going to move precipitously — our commitment remains strong," he said.

Today, Cheney characterised his Manila visit as "an important stop."

The defence secretary pointed out that his discussions come at a crucial juncture in US-Philippine relations, with talks expected to open next month on renewal of the leases for Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base and several other military posts.

"We've got major negotiations about to begin with the Philippines on the bases," he said.

"I think the things that unite us, that we've got in common, are a good deal more significant than any momentary stress in the relationship," Cheney said. "I would expect to focus on and emphasise those things — (such as) the historic ties between our two countries."

Cheney said he deliberately "tried to respond in a very low-key fashion to Aquino's decision not to receive me. I think the president has tried to keep all of that on an even keel as well."

US President George Bush issued a rare public rebuke to Aquino for refusing to meet with his defence secretary, saying in an interview that "she can learn a great deal from Dick Cheney about the way we view the very important US presence in the Pacific."

Cheney said he intended to stress that despite the rumblings from Congress for troop cuts and sharply reduced military budgets, "our interests in the region will continue."

voted to join the regional government in a referendum covering 13 southern provinces and cities in November.

A bomb exploded on the eve of the polls, and another blast occurred an hour before polling stations opened today at 7 am in the town of Jolo, 960 kilometres (600 miles) south of Manila, said Maj. Hermogenes Esperon, a spokesman for the military's southern command.

No one was reported injured, and no one has claimed responsibility for the bombings.

"We hope that with the assurance of the armed forces ... this election will be a clean and credible one," said commission on elections executive director Vicente



Delegates of the Chinese and Hong Kong Basic Law drafting committee pose for a photograph to commemorate the drafting of the future constitution of Hong Kong. At the front from left to right are President Yang Shangkun, senior leader Deng Xiaoping, Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng. (Reuters wirephoto)

Deng praises HK drafters

Hurd faces questioning

BEIJING, Feb. 17, (AP): Senior leader Deng Xiaoping of China today met with the authors of Hong Kong's proposed constitution for Chinese rule and called their work "a masterpiece of creativity."

Deng, whose last public appearance was nearly a month ago, made the comment during a brief meeting with drafters of the document, called the basic law.

The 51-member committee, appointed in 1985 by the Beijing government, this week completed the final law draft, which now goes to China's legislature, the National People's Congress, for approval.

"This is a historical event, not just for the present but for the future, not just for the Third World but for all of mankind," Deng said. "Such a document is a masterpiece of creativity."

Deng met once before with the drafting committee — in April 1987, just after the pro-democracy student protests of the winter of 1986-87.

During the meeting, he emphasised the need for stability and warned that after 1997 "if (people) try to turn Hong Kong into a base of opposition to the mainland in the name of 'democracy' ... we will definitely interfere."

He also said general elections and "Western democracy" were not suitable for Hong Kong, while "keeping certain power for the central government will benefit Hong Kong and bring it no harm."

However, many Hong Kong residents fear the new constitution will not go far enough in forcing China to keep its promises of allowing the capitalist system to remain for 50 years after the 1997 takeover and of letting Hong Kong exercise a high degree of autonomy.

Deng was accompanied at the meeting by Premier Li Peng, Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, President Yang Shan-

gkun and National People's Congress Chairman Wan Li, none of whom spoke.

Deng walked slowly but without help to greet the drafters, who were standing on bleachers for a group photo. He shook hands with those in the front row and chatted with Hong Kong business tycoon Li Ka-Shing.

His voice was shaky and somewhat slurred, but he otherwise appeared healthy.

Ji Pengfei, chairman of the drafting committee and director of the Hong Kong Macau affairs office, said in his closing remarks later in the morning that the basic law "reflects the great thinking of (the) one country, two systems" policy.

He said that the drafting committee is now faced with making "the basic law a part of the popular feeling in Hong Kong."

He alluded to the lack of confidence Hong Kong residents have in the document's ability to help the territory maintain its capitalist system and a high degree of autonomy.

Confidence in China's promises plummeted after the June 4 military crackdown on China's pro-democracy movement, which was widely supported in Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong on Friday, the passage of the final basic law draft was greeted with renewed demands for a faster pace of democratisation.

About 1,500 students chanting pro-democracy slogans and carrying placards marched to the Chinese diplomatic mission, and the government announced plans to sharply increase the pace of democratic development next year.

In London, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd faced a barrage of hostile questions in Parliament on Friday and said the constitution was "not ideal" but a "reasonable basis for the future."

Tokyo university recognises brain death

TOKYO, Feb. 17, (AP): An ethics committee of Tokyo University Medical Science Research Institute approved a plan today to perform a liver transplant involving a brain-dead donor, the committee chairman said.

Prof. Kazuya Yamamouchi, who heads the seven-member ethics committee, told a nationally televised news conference his committee hopes the action would stir public concern and build "social consensus" to recognise brain death.

Japanese doctors have long avoided undertaking organ

transplants because Japanese law does not recognise brain death, blocking the supply of transplantable organs.

Brain death is a condition in which all functions of the brain are determined to have irreversibly ceased.

Yamamouchi said livers for transplantation must be obtained from a brain-dead donor because freshness is crucial to such an operation.

The planned liver transplant can now be performed as soon as such a donor is available, officials of the medical institute said.

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Ryzhkov listens intently to reporters' questions during a press conference in Singapore. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviets back UN plan for Cambodia

SINGAPORE, Feb 17, (UPI): Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said today he would welcome a UN interim administration in Cambodia, but refused to halt aid to Phnom Penh as long as other countries send aid to the rebels.

In a wide-ranging news conference marking the conclusion of his visit to the Asia-Pacific region, Ryzhkov said the Soviet Union was anxious to beef up trade and economic co-operation with the region.

Most of his comments focused on Cambodia, where a loose alliance of three resistance groups is attempting to reach a peace settlement with the Vietnamese-backed government, which took power in 1978 after Vietnam overthrew the Khmer Rouge regime of Pol Pot.

"We stand for a political settlement" to end the 11-year-old conflict, Ryzhkov said. "We will stop our arms supplies providing reciprocal steps are taken by the others."

One of the resistance groups, loyal to exiled Prince Norodom Sihanouk, has been receiving military backing from China and non-lethal assistance from the United States.

Sihanouk has rejected the Soviet proposal to unilaterally halt arms supplies on all sides, saying it would be impossible to stop secret shipments from Vietnam to the Phnom Penh government.

The Cambodian factions, along with the six nations belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and Vietnam and Laos meet in Jakarta next week for peace talks.

Two earlier attempts to settle the dispute in Jakarta and Paris failed to make any significant headway, but Vietnam recently indicated it would be willing to accept a UN presence in Cambodia. The role of the United Nations had been a major stumbling block in the ongoing discussions.

The foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations endorsed a standing Australian plan for ending the war in Cambodia.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told reporters that he and his counterparts from the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei and Singapore had endorsed the initiative.

Jakarta plotters executed

JAKARTA, Feb 17, (AP): Four former members of the Indonesian palace guards under the late President Sukarno have been executed for their involvement in a failed coup attempt 25 years ago, a government spokesman said today.

Brig. Gen. Nurhadi Purwasaputra, spokesman for the Indonesian armed forces, confirmed that Soemanan, Noor Tohayana, Satar Suryanto and Yohannes Suroso had been put to death last Tuesday.

All were arrested following the abortive communist coup on Sept 30, 1965. They were charged with kidnapping and killing Gen. Aehmad Yani, head of the army.

Officials gave no reason why the four remained on death row for 25 years, but delays in carrying out earlier executions were said to have been made to allow time for the accused to divulge information about their subversive activities.

In Washington, D.C., Asia Watch, a US-based human rights organisation, asked world leaders today to condemn the executions.

Romanian defence chief forced to quit

New minister is choice of military

BUCHAREST, Feb 17, (AP): Defence Minister Victor Stanculescu, who took over the military today, was the choice of officers who forced the resignation of his predecessor, Nicolae Militaru.

The shakeup last night climaxed a week-long protests by junior and middle-level officers demanding the dismissal of the 74-year-old Militaru, who, for years followed orders from Nicolae Ceausescu, the communist dictator who toppled in December.

On Thursday night, state-run television broadcast a frank but edited tape of talks between Deputy Prime Minister Gelu Voican Voiculescu and 58 officers from 38 units who presented a list of 13 demands, including Militaru's resignation.

At one point, Voiculescu asked the officers who they would want as defence chief if not Militaru. They said Stanculescu, a lieutenant general who was minister of national economy.

Interim President Ion Iliescu's announcement that he had accepted a request to remove Militaru and had appointed Stanculescu to replace him did not say who would succeed Stanculescu at the Ministry of National Economy.

The announcement defused the first challenge by the military to the government it helped create in December's revolution. The 21-member executive bureau of the ruling Council of National Unity, at its first meeting yesterday, endorsed the creation of a commission to investigate all the officers' demands and expressed hope that the measures taken by the government would restore calm. Iliescu heads the bureau.

Thousands of civilians had flocked to Victory Square in Bucharest to support the officers, whose decision to back the popular uprising in December was crucial to winning the revolution. Similar demonstrations were held in the western city of Timisoara and the port of Constanta.

The newspaper Tineretul Liber reported today that a big demonstration backing the officers was also held in Brasov, Romania's second-largest city, yesterday. Protesters shouted, "The army is with us, and we are with army" and where are Brasov's terrorists?

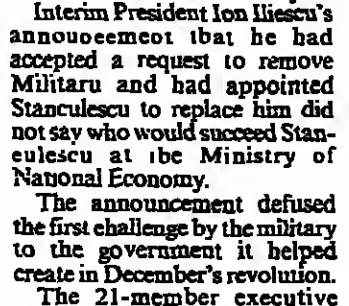
The newspaper Adevarul reported today that before Iliescu's announcement, the national news agency Rompres had received a statement from the military central command's key committee of initiative backing the officers' call for Militaru's resignation.

The committee called for the ministry to be run by generals and officers "not compromised during the revolution." It also demanded the retirement of all officers, like Militaru, who were recalled to active duty during the revolution.

Navy officers from Tulcea in the Danube Delta also backed the officers, the newspaper Romania Liberal reported.

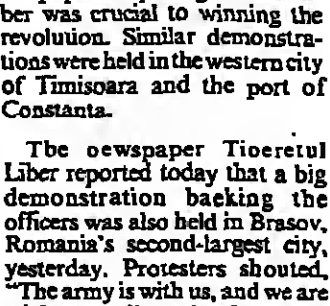
An Aids epidemic among Romanian children has reached critical proportions, with at least 200 suffering from the disease and 800 infected with the virus that causes it, a senior Red Cross official said in Geneva.

Stanculescu at a press conference.



Stanculescu at a press conference.

A worker raises his fist to protest against the new Romanian government and the introduction of their policies during a demonstration in Bucharest.



A worker raises his fist to protest against the new Romanian government and the introduction of their policies during a demonstration in Bucharest.

Bush signs bill on China

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, Feb 17, (AP): US President George Bush, in a new clash with Congress over China policy, signed the bill today that the president considers an infringement on his right to conduct diplomacy.

Bush late Friday signed a \$9.5-billion State Department spending bill that reinforces sanctions on China and requires that Congress be notified when such secret missions as National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft's visit last June to Beijing are undertaken.

The President, at his oceanside home for a three-day weekend, signed the bill in the face of serious objections to those sections and several others which he said raised "constitutional difficulties."

The constitution gives the president exclusive power "to receive and appoint ambassadors and to conduct negotiations on behalf of the United States with foreign governments," Bush told Congress.

The overall legislation authorizes \$4.8 billion for the State Department and related agencies for the fiscal year that began last Oct 1, and another \$5 billion for fiscal 1991.

Bush vetoed an earlier version of the legislation, not only because of the China sections, but due to an amendment that would have prohibited the administration from seeking third-country financing of insurgent groups, such as the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras.

Congress dropped that proposal from the current legislation, US support of the Contras was phased out under a bipartisan accord with Congress.

The bill writes into law sanctions identical to those Bush imposed on China after last June's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing, including a ban on military sales to China and restrictions on trade and loans.

"Legislatively mandated sanctions represent an unwelcome constraint upon the president's ability to conduct foreign policy," Bush contended.

However, Bush signed the bill with the assertion he would not follow sections he considered unconstitutional.

He noted the legislation allows him to waive sanctions on grounds of "national interest" and suggested this clause put enough flexibility into the measure to allow it to escape a veto.

The sanctions remain in effect for the time being. Bush has no immediate plans to lift them, said deputy press secretary Stephen Hart.

Bush said he would disavow the section of the legislation that would require the State Department to give Congress a full report on any politically sensitive secret diplomatic contacts.

China said it would never accept the Dalai Lama's attempt to establish an "independent Tibet," stressing there is no room for bargaining on the issue.

One Germany without Nato

Soviet term for unity

WEST BERLIN, Feb 17, (Agencies): A top-ranking adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said today "there won't be any German unification" if the West insists on a Nato membership for the combined German states.

The questions of Nato membership and the German military stance have become increasingly important as officials try to work out the details for reunifying East and West Germany.

"If the Western alliance sticks to its demand for a Nato membership of all of Germany, then there won't be any German unification," Valentin Falin said in an interview with Saarland state radio.

Falin called on Western nations to ensure peace in Europe.

"We are talking about doing away with the military factor in Europe overall," said Falin.

Gorby gets too much pat

West misinterpreting

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb 17, (AP): Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, deserves praise for his foreign policy but gets too much credit for changes taking place in the Soviet Union, Soviet dissident Yelena Bonner said yesterday.

"We do not know what it is he wants," Bonner said at the opening of a forum on human rights. "Is he only interested in personal power? Or he is interested in the rights of the people?"

Bonner appeared at the peace prize forum at Augsburg College in place of her late husband, Andrei Sakharov, who had been scheduled to address the forum before his death in December from a heart attack.

She said Gorbachev's actions in allowing changes in the Soviet bloc are widely misinterpreted by Western countries. She said revolts have been brewing for a long time and Gorbachev deserves credit only for not stamping them out.

Bonner said the Soviet party's policy statement issued only three days ago is nearly the same as party platforms issued for decades, with only slight changes in wording.

She also said Gorbachev's initiatives in making elections more democratic came too late because the changes were made after the deadline for filing for office had closed. The elections, scheduled in March to the Soviet Union, are extremely important, she said.

"If he would have done this six months ago, it would have been a courageous act," Bonner said. "But now, so what?"



'Grab party'

Yelena Bonner speaks at a meeting of the "Democratic Platform" movement in Moscow. Yelena said she opposed forming a new party, adding the movement should try instead to gain control of the Communist Party. (Rauter wirephoto)

She also said people in the Soviet Union are afraid Gorbachev is eliminating too many powers.

"Gorbachev has shown himself as a very strong leader in the struggle for his own power and his own survival," she said.

Bonner also criticised Gorbachev for using military force to handle demonstrations and other disruptions.

Parliament to debate unrest

Samarkand riot denied

MOSCOW, Feb 17, (Agencies): The Communist Party chief in Samarkand today denied a report by state-run Radio Moscow that rioting in Soviet Central Asia had spread to the ancient city of Uzbekistan.

The Radio Moscow broadcast said members of the Muslim majority fought ethnic Armenians.

The report, aired on Radio Moscow's international English-language service late Friday, came after a week of unrest in the neighbouring Soviet republic of Tajikistan, where 20 people were killed and 568 wounded by Interior Ministry troops.

Nasyr Yakubov, the first party secretary of Samarkand, told the Associated Press by telephone that the city was quiet, there were no riots and no curfew was imposed.

He said the city's 12,000 Armenian residents live in peace with members of other ethnic groups.

Asatylu Yusupov, a duty officer at the Interior Ministry office in Samarkand, also denied the radio report.

Radio Moscow reported Friday that the Interior Ministry sent troop reinforcements to Samarkand, and ordered residents to remain in their homes after dark. Despite those measures, the radio said, rallies and demonstrations continued.

It cited the Interfax news service, a joint venture affiliated with Radio Moscow, as the source of its information.

No other state-run Soviet news media carried the report, which did not mention casualties or damage in Samarkand, a city of colourfully tiled buildings, domed mosques and oriental bazaars. It was the capital of a 14th-century empire established

by the Mongol conqueror Tamerlane, who was renowned for his cruelty.

The ancient city, conquered by Alexander the Great in 329 BC, is about 1,700 miles (2,700 kms) southeast of Moscow and has a population of 390,000 mostly Muslims. The Armenian refugees are mainly Christians.

Asked about Yusupov's denials, an editor at Radio Moscow's central newsroom in Moscow acknowledged today that the radio had not been able to independently confirm details of the Interfax report.

Interfax reported Friday that "mass intercommunal riots have continued in Samarkand since yesterday, according to a spokesman for the informal democratic movement Uzbekistan Marat Hojmatullayev. Radio Tashkent reported today that a curfew was introduced in Samarkand and interior troop reinforcements were sent in."

"The riots began as Tajiks, who account for the majority of residents, clashed with Armenians. Rallies and demonstrations have continued in the city. A spokeswoman for the Tashkent chapter of the National Memorial Society, Isabella Kachanovskaya, voiced grave concern at the situation and said that self-defence units are being formed in the city by the society, Interfax said.

The report was sent via facsimile to subscribing Western news organisations in Moscow.

On Friday, Tass, the official Soviet news agency, had reported that inflammatory leaflets were being circulated in areas of Uzbekistan bordering Tajikistan. They demanded "the immediate eviction of Russians from Central Asia" and denounced

the alleged resettlement in Uzbekistan of refugees, presumably Armenians, who fled the republic of Azerbaijan, Tass said.

Tass said a man identified as Kh. Saidov was arrested in Samarkand for carrying 30 anti-Armenian leaflets and the Shab district court fined another man, I. Guseinov, 500 roubles (\$830) for advocating the eviction of Armenians and using force against them.

With ethnic and nationalist unrest percolating across the country, the Soviet parliament has decided to hold a special session to discuss the long-running conflict between Azerbaijanis and Armenians.

The announcement of the meeting, to be held on Monday, coincided with a report by the official Tass news agency that the mutilated bodies of 12 people — 11 of them Armenians — had been found in a sand pit in Azerbaijan.

In Lithuania, thousands of nationalists marking the 1918 declaration of an independent Lithuanian state turned in their Soviet military draft cards on Friday and prayed for home rule at peaceful rallies and church services.

But in the volatile Soviet south, tensions remained high. Local journalists in the Central Asian republic of Tajikistan predicted fresh unrest after local Communist Party leaders refused to resign as their part of a deal aimed at ending riots which killed at least 18 people this week.

Soviet media said the situation was still tense in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, with self-defence units patrolling the streets and industries at a standstill.

Albanians march to protest emergency in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Feb 17, (AP): Several thousand ethnic Albanians demonstrated yesterday and thousands of pupils stayed away from classes to protest a virtual state of emergency in a Yugoslav province of Kosovo, reports said.

Attendance in schools throughout the province was low, as most ethnic Albanian students stayed away in "a massive boycott of classes," the state Tanjug news agency reported.

Up to 1,000 schoolchildren, their hands raised in V-for-victory signs, marched peacefully through the town of Titova Mitrovica, some 45 kilometres (28 miles) north of Pristina, the provincial capital, local journalists said. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

Another 1,000 people took to the streets in Podujevo, 32 kilometres (20 miles) north of Pristina, demanding an end to a year-old state of emergency and the heavy presence of security forces in their town, Belgrade radio reported.

Riot police were present but did not intervene to break up the protests, it said.

Podujevo was the focus of massive protests in Kosovo in January that claimed the lives of at least 26 Albanians. People of Albanian origin make up 90 per cent of Kosovo's 1.9 million population.

At least 28 died in violence that erupted in the province last year, after constitutional changes limited the region's autonomy and gave Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic, near total control over the region.

Most of the detained candidates were members of Suu Kyi's party but it was unclear what charges, if any, they faced, or whether any had been released, the diplomats said.

A spokesman for the military government, Col. Than Tun, told a press conference yesterday that only nine candidates had been "called in for questioning," including six members of the National League. One was released, he said.

Than Tun did not explain why the candidates were detained.

In January, the co-leader of Suu Kyi's party, Tin Oo, was sentenced to three years at hard labour on charges of subversion, and U Nu, the last democratically elected Prime Minister, was put under house arrest and barred from the election.

In 1988, millions of Burmese took to the streets demanding democracy and an end to authoritarian rule. The demonstrations were crushed on Sept 18 that year when the present military government seized power. To suppress the uprising, the military government ordered a series of clampdowns in which troops shot thousands of people.

The military government has imposed martial law, which bans gatherings of more than five people, and imposes a nighttime curfew. It has promised to lift such restrictions before the end of the month.

Groundbreaking ceremony

WASHINGTON, Feb 17, (AP): A groundbreaking ceremony will be held next week for a religious centre to replace a controversial convent on the grounds of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, the World Jewish Congress announced yesterday.

Official announcement of the dedication, which closes a chapter in often-painful relations between Catholics and Jews, will be made following a meeting Monday between Poland's Prime Minister

Tadeusz Mazowiecki and WJC president Edgar Brodman, the group said.

The new centre will be located several hundred yards (metres) away from the death camp site, which has been enshrined as a memorial to the hundreds of thousands of Jews and others killed there by the Nazis.

French Bishop Georges Pontalao on Friday announced a drive to raise funds among French Catholics for the interfaith centre, the WJC said.

The push for quick unification is worrying some states that suffered occupation by Nazi Germany, such as Poland.

Poland has asked to be included in talks on German unification between the two German states and the four World War II allies — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

East German Premier Hans Modrow on Friday endorsed the Polish request during a visit to Warsaw.

Mongolia pulls down Stalin bust

ULAN BATOR, Feb 17, (Reuters): Mongolia's communist government has decided to remove the last statue of hated Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin from an Ulan Bator street, signalling another concession to democratic demands sweeping this remote land.

The official Ulan Bator newspaper said today the decision to cart away a huge black statue of the dictator was taken by the ruling communist politburo in democratic consideration of the people's wishes.

"The statue has received much displeasure from the public," said the newspaper. "According to the principle of justice and democracy (it will be pulled down)."

The Politburo's move was the latest in a series of government concessions to a wave of popular demand for deep political and economic changes to Mongolia's 68-year-old communist system.

A newly-formed Mongolian Democratic Association will hold its first Congress tomorrow, at which some 500 nation-wide delegates are expected to make radical demands and proclaim themselves Mongolia's first opposition party.

Western diplomats said the ruling Mongolian Peoples Revolution Party has been reforming fast in an attempt to narrow differences between their policies and the emerging opposition manifesto.

Mongolia, a land of just over two million people living on a territory three times the size of France, is the second oldest communist country and the latest of the Soviet Union's allies to feel the winds of democratic change.

Suu Kyi disqualified from Burma elections 'due to her link to banned rebel group'

RANGOON, Feb 17, (AP): The name of Burma's leading opposition figure did not appear today in the final list of candidates for the May 27 general election — the first multi-party race since 1960.

Aung San Suu Kyi, 44-year-old daughter of assassinated independence hero Aung San, was disqualified from the parliamentary election Jan 16 by the Election Commission, which was appointed by the military government to administer the promised poll.

The decision, which was never officially announced, came after a rival candidate from the main pro-military party objected to her candidacy.

Although Suu Kyi had applied to run, her name was not on the election list when it was posted today outside the

commission's Rangoon office, witnesses said.

No other member of Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy, was listed in her place, they said.

Suu Kyi, who has been the most outspoken critic of military rule in Burma, was put under house arrest in July. She has been accused of subversion, but no formal charges have been filed against her.

Her disqualification follows charges that she was linked to a banned student rebel group and owed her allegations to Britain. Suu Kyi is married to a Briton, but holds a Burmese passport.

On Friday, Western diplomats in Rangoon said at least 25 opposition parliamentary candidates campaigning for seats from Rangoon had been detained since Feb 8. Hun-

reds of dissidents also have been detained in the past three months, they said.

Most of the detained candidates were members of Suu Kyi's party but it was unclear what charges, if any, they faced, or whether any had been released, the diplomats said.

A spokesman for the military government, Col. Than Tun, told a press conference yesterday that only nine candidates had been "called in for questioning," including six members of the National League. One was released, he said.

Than Tun did not explain why the candidates were detained.

In January, the co-leader of Suu Kyi's party, Tin Oo, was sentenced to three years at hard labour on charges of subversion, and U Nu, the last democratically elected Prime Minister, was put under house arrest and barred from the election.

In 1988, millions of Burmese took to the streets demanding democracy and an end to authoritarian rule. The demonstrations were crushed on Sept 18 that year when the present military government seized power. To suppress the uprising, the military government ordered a series of clampdowns in which troops shot thousands of people.

Iqama rule relaxed for contracting sector

No change in other regulations

By Hussain Salameh

THE existing law which prohibits the transfer of residence permits of expatriate labourers working in the private sector before the completion of a three-year period, is to be relaxed, sources at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and the committee formed to follow up the implementation of the economic report said.

However, they clarified that this relaxation is only applicable to the contracting sector and does not cover or include other sectors or other labour regulations introduced last year.

Sources at the committee said that the

Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour is currently implementing the called-for relaxation on visa transfer instituted by the government-sponsored economic revival proposals.

The economic report proposal called on the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to "review the ministry's decision on the regulations of the labour sector by introduction of a relaxation in transferring visas from one sponsor to another to facilitate work demands in the contracting sector in particular."

Transfers

The ministry sources explained that the new relaxation applies to a large number of contracting labourers who are recruited by

certain companies. If these companies after completion of their present project do not win other contracts, they can transfer their labourers to other companies without the need to abide by the three years limit for transfer specified by regulations.

According to labour regulations introduced by the ministry early last year, labourers recruited from abroad were required to work with their sponsors for at least three years prior to transferring to other sponsors. In case the project was completed before the three year period, the companies that recruited these workers had to send them back. Now this term has been relaxed to allow the transfer of contracting labourers to other companies in

Kuwait.

The ministry sources affirmed that the economic report does not require the ministry to do more than this. The follow up committee of the economic report agreed that the ministry measure was pragmatic. It added that leaving the transfer of sponsorship in the private sector without restrictions will certainly create confusion in the market particularly to employers.

Sources at the committee said that the refusal of any ministry or establishment to implement proposals of the economic report is not ruled out. But, such applicants must explain in writing to the Council of Ministers their reasons, as the report has been approved by the council.

Kuwait in co-op talks with Dadzie

GENEVA, Feb 17, (Kuna): Kuwait's Ambassador to Geneva Sheikh Salem Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah yesterday met with the secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), K.S. Dadzie.

As chairman of the Asian group in the Group of 77 developing countries, Dr Sabah said his meeting with the secretary general covered a number of issues before the organisation, especially those related to the forthcoming eighth conference of UNCTAD.

Issues concerning ways of co-operation between the various groups of countries in UNCTAD were also discussed, he pointed out.

Dr Sabah, who is also the chairman of the Arab group of ambassadors accredited to the United Nations in Geneva for this month, said the group will be calling on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Thornvald Stoltenberg next Thursday.

Asked about the issues to be discussed with the UNHCR, Dr Sabah said the Arab ambassadors will use the occasion to congratulate the high commissioner upon his assumption of office and also discuss matters of co-operation.

Meanwhile, general director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) Federico Meyer will commence his official meetings today with Kuwaiti officials in order to discuss means of co-operation in various fields between Qatar and Unesco.

Unesco's general director gave a statement upon his arrival at the airport last night, saying that the aim of his visit is to recognise the needs of the state of Kuwait from Unesco in the fields of culture, education and science.

He also described co-operation between Qatar and the organisation as historical and fruitful, pointing out that Qatar is an active participant in the activities of Unesco.



Congratulations Palala

The Consul-General of the Philippines Embassy, Kuwait, Ms. Olivia V. Palala Wednesday hosted a reception to say thank you to friends who congratulated her on her recent promotion to the post. Ms. Palala is a popular figure in the Filipino community and is one of the youngest diplomats at the embassy. Ms. Palala is pictured with some of the friends who attended the reception at the Mabuhay Restaurant.

From the courts

Jewel thieves get five years

THE Criminal Court sentenced two men to five years imprisonment with hard labour and ordered their deportation. Another accused in the same case was released by the court. The three men were charged with robbing a house of KD30,000 worth of jewellery.

Security investigations revealed that the daughter of the victim was involved in a relationship with one of the accused. The convict proposed to his girlfriend through her mother and was refused. The daughter of the mother's victim told the court that one day when she was at the club, she had lost the keys of the house where she is living with her mother. Investigations revealed that the convict had stolen his girlfriend house keys and made a copy in order to use them in the robbery.

The stolen jewellery was given to the second convict by the first convict and was kept at the third accused's house. The third convict did know that the jewellery were stolen and therefore was released by the court.

The Court of First Instance has ordered a local company to return the passport of one of its workers after he was dismissed from the services of the company.

The company had terminated the employee's

services, but refused to hand over his passport and the worker had moved the court.

The court in its decision said that according to the new labour law in the private sector as of 1989, the employer has no right to withhold the passport of any worker in the private sector.

Only the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has this right and accordingly the court ordered the employer to return the passport of the worker.

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court refused to pass a sentence against an accused on charges of taking nine valium tablets, a local daily reported.

The court was told that after a quarrel between a woman and her husband, the former went into her father-in-law's room and consumed nine valium tablets and was found in a coma.

The father-in-law reported the incident to the police and attested that he was in possession of the valium through a medical prescription provided to him by the Al Sabah Hospital and produced the medical report.

The court took into consideration that the woman was suffering from a malignant tumour which was further aggravated with the state of her mind due to the recent quarrel and saw these as mitigating circumstances in refraining from passing judgement.

Ministries accounts audited for 88/89

KUWAIT, Feb 17, (Kuna): The Audit Bureau has recently finalised auditing accounts of all ministries and other government departments for fiscal 1988/89, according to a report prepared by Kuna's information and research department.

The report was issued on the occasion of the country's National Day celebration with the aim of shedding light on performance of the state's bodies as part of several reports covering different fields.

The bureau was established in 1964 as an independent body for financial control.

Its responsibilities cover all ministries and public departments that make up the administrative apparatus of the state.

The independence of the bureau was meant to keep it away from any influence by the circles it control in order to avert any pressure that may prejudice its performance as a control body.

The bureau is responsible for controlling tenders, agreements or contracts that may result in financial obligations on the state.

All government bodies are obliged by law not to commit themselves to any agreement without the approval of the bureau.

The bureau is a member of several regional and international organisations including the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions, the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions and the Arab Working Group of Supreme Audit Institutions.

The bureau's chief Faris Abdel Rahman Al Waqyan says modern audit bodies should not be captives of carrying out duties stipulated in their internal regulations, indicating the importance of benefiting from regional and international experience in the field.

Changes in housing policy to be adopted

Citizens warned against leasing

THE problem of providing housing to citizens will increase according to numerous studies that have been conducted and which are heavily influenced by two factors: impact of present public housing policy including complete dependence of most citizens on the government for providing ready-to-use homes, lack of standardisation in the construction of new homes and the personal attitude of Kuwaitis toward the public-housing programme expressed as lack of positive involvement in the planning and construction phases of housing.

The viewpoint that government housing represents an opportunity for ownership instead of its intended purpose of providing suitable family shelter, and misuse of the financial loans provided by government to eligible citizens for the purpose of remodelling existing homes, are also factors adding to the problem.

It is thus seen as inevitable that certain fundamental changes be adopted in the present policy in order to achieve overall improvements in the public housing programme.

Kuwait's Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Naser Abdulla Al Roudhan, was quoted as saying that the implementation of the housing projects at some old areas through the construction of popular houses would constitute the sole solution for the NHA in the present scenario and enable it to continue its current housing plan.

Changes

Speaking to reporters following his inspection visit to Al Jahra housing projects, the official said that the authority is hampered in the speedy implementation of its plans due to the scarcity of appropriate land.

He added that the authority is planning to reconstruct the old Jahra area and also to construct three housing projects in this area.

He also praised the role of the

implementing housing projects and commented that those contractors who had failed to live up to their contractual obligations had been black-listed by the authority in obtaining future contracts.

Roudhan clarified that the changes and amendments carried out by some citizens to their houses, is being seriously viewed by the NHA, referring that some of these changes were justified while others were unwarranted.

However, he added that the Kuwait Municipality is the sole authority who is authorised to make any alterations to the houses built by the NHA. However, he said that this phenomenon has been reported at Al Qurain, Al Rabya and Al Jahra housing units till date.

The minister took the opportunity to warn citizens who have been allocated government housing units against leasing such units. He commented that violators face the possibility of having their units confiscated, and could further be subject to legal action.

Plans

Waleed Rabi'a, deputy director of the Public Relations Department at the National Housing Authority (NHA) said that the NHA budget has increased with the expansion of its housing projects. Since its establishment in 1974, a total of KD1,000,000,000 has been allocated as budget, the official added.

Speaking to a local daily, Rabi'a said that the five-year planning system had proven its applicability and suitability to factors of speed and accuracy in the construction of NHA projects in various locations of the country.

He said that under the first five-year housing plan (1975-1980) the NHA sought to meet the housing requirements of citizens with limited incomes, whose estimated number of applications reached 22,000 and that this required the construction of 140 per cent of the total population.

thousand housing units annually.

He said that under the second five-year plan, NHA evaluated the achievements under the first plan to sidestep the negatives in its subsequent plans, and that this task involved the development of its manpower resources, upgrade its urban planning and architectural design techniques and improving the methods employed in the construction and administrative, financial and professional management.

He pointed out that the fourth five-year plan, ending in 1989, focused primarily on the need to contract the long-waiting period for applicants wishing to receive their houses as early as possible, adding that the second most important priority was to provide improved and better designed housing units that could meet the taste and requirements of individual applicants.

Meanwhile, Issam Al Freij of the Planning Department at Kuwait Municipality said that the existing building code had passed through different development stages in response to the development in the economic situation and in line with the consistent growth of the population.

He said that the proposed vertical expansion of buildings would be confined to projects implemented inside the city, adding that the building code specified under the existing building code had been increased to 140 per cent of the total population.

He added that the building code also included the establishment of building sites and related setbacks to keep distances between neighbouring buildings.

He stressed the building code regulated the co-ordination and symmetrical building operations from an aesthetic viewpoint, highlighting that had it not been for that the result would be a state of obscured identity between investment, commercial or industrial buildings.



Mr and Ms Valentine winners

Kabayan Restaurant, the Filipino food station in Kuwait, last week conducted a search for Mr and Ms Valentine as highlight of their Valentine's Day celebration this year.

The now famous Kabayan Singers, composed of Stella Mongas, Elen Torres, Mher Lumbang, Andy Gabriel, Milano Mendez and Kabayan Restaurant owner, Rory Aureliano, took turns in entertaining the audience with their electrifying music and hilarious comedy skits. The group, minus Noli Borja and Yolly Rapada who have left Kuwait for good, will always be remembered in Kuwait for their cassette tape, "Saan Ka Pa Kabayan," the first ever cassette tape produced and recorded in Kuwait.

Also around to delight the crowd in Medel Cruz, another equally talented singer and a Kabayan Restaurant habitue.

Surprise gift items were given away to the lucky "Valentino" and "Valentina" who were chosen from among the crowd before the show by Bobby Madayag of Bobby's Gift Shop.

This year's Mr and Ms Valentine, were chosen from among three other couples. The male contestants

were asked to go into a room and answer three questions appertaining themselves and/or their partners. They were then called one by one from the room and the same questions were asked from their partners who must make sure that their answers tally. The couple who answered the most number of questions correctly were adjudged the winners. Tyrone Ornes and Elvia Villegas scored a perfect 3 and were proclaimed as the 1990 Mr and Ms Valentine.

Tyrone was presented with a Rakan 3000 video game set with 32 built-in games while Elvia was given the Rakan 8000 complete with laser accessories, courtesy of Rakan Electronics Company. On hand to present the prizes was Mahmoud Younis Al Managing director of Rakan Electronics.

Engr Edward Racaza, Kabayan owner and manager, was the master of ceremonies during the presentation. Picture shows the Kabayan Singers during the Valentine's Day special at the new Kabayan Restaurant (L-R) Andy Gabriel, Rory Aureliano, Elen Torres, Mher Lumbang and Stella Mongas.



Plax and oral hygiene market

Consumer awareness of the importance of good oral hygiene in the East has been on the increase. The market is forecast to be worth \$1.5 million per annum (a 5 per cent growth) by the end of 1990. Plax is a totally new oral hygiene concept as proven product with many positive benefits.

Plax is the leading pharmaceutical house, Pfizer Inc. Plax was introduced in the USA in 1986 and is currently reflecting a 200 per cent growth at an estimated \$400 million at RSP, worldwide. Clearly, consumers are appreciating that allowing plaque (a film of bacteria) to build up on teeth can lead to serious dental problems, such as gum disease, later in life. Plaque also causes tartar accumulation and

bad breath. Plax is a pre-washing rinse which directly removes plaque. It is a substance to be used before brushing and works by penetrating and breaking down the film of plaque — which may then be brushed away.

Plax has been allocated to the first year's launch of the Middle East. This includes a TV commercial and major advertising campaign, scheduled to commence in March. Within the region, Pfizer anticipated that 95 per cent of consumers will be aware of Plax via the media. The campaign will also be supported by high-quality point of sale material and literature as part of the launch package.

Iraqi labour minister arrives

KUWAIT, Feb 17, (Kuna): Iraqi Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Dr Omeed Medhat Mubarak arrived in Kuwait before noon today on a three-day official visit.

In a press statement upon his arrival, Dr Omeed said he is carrying wellwishes from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and the government and people of Kuwait.

Dr Omeed expected the meetings he is to hold today with his Kuwait counterpart Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed to have positive and fruitful results in the fields of exchange of expertise and co-operation in the activities of specialised and Arab and international organisations.

Co-operation is under way in all fields and Sheikh Nasser is regularly consulted on all issues of interest to the people of both countries, said Dr Omeed.

Education staff asked to vacate quarters

THE Education Ministry has issued a circular requesting some of its staff at the various administrative and technical departments to vacate their houses within a period not exceeding Feb 28. These houses were provided to them 10 years ago.

Ministry sources quoted by a local daily said that the ministry step was taken in response to a report by the Audit Bureau stating that the government houses provided to those ministry staff violated the enforced rules on government-supplied accommodations.

The sources pointed out that the once externally hired house-supplied staff would not be treated as locally-contracted employees, adding that the concerned staff were to finish the relevant paperwork and procedure with the ministry's furnishing and accommodation control before the date specified.

Meanwhile the director of Ahmadi educational area Abdulla Al Lagman has said that the area is increasing efforts to develop the educational standards of pupils on the light of results of the first term of this scholastic year. Amongst the various efforts in this direction, the area will organise a series of meetings between him and the headmasters of schools, organise field visits to schools and focus on activating intensive classes for pupils who need them.

He added that Ahmadi area will take part in celebrations of the National Day and an exhibition for photography and another one for formative arts will be organised on the occasion. The two exhibits will display the products and works of pupils in all schools of Ahmadi area and prizes will be given to winners. The area will also organise Wafra Day under the patronage of the education minister which will include educational and entertainment programmes, he said.

In Saudi Arabia drug addicts have hope, smugglers face death

11 people executed this year, 99 in 1989

JEDDAH, Feb 17, (Reuters): "The prince was at hand to greet the caravan on arrival."

This is the way Saudi Arabia's media report the progress of caravans roaming this vast and rugged country — signifying that one of the country's innumerable amirs or princes is on hand to give the travellers the ruling family's blessings.

For these are no ordinary caravans. The four-wheel-drive vehicles, trucks and camels are plastered with posters displaying in gruesome detail the grim and often lethal effect of drug smuggling and abuse.

Saudi Arabia uses the carrot and stick approach in its war on drugs. The carrot takes the form of an intensive publicity campaign about the disastrous personal impact of addiction, and the stick is the threat of execution for the drug smuggler or dealer.

The caravans are staffed by policemen, sociologists and religious scholars who have joined forces in an official onslaught against the scourge of drug abuse.

Saudi Arabia introduced the death penalty three years ago for people convicted of trafficking in illegal drugs. Three Pakistanis and a Somali national convicted of smuggling heroin were publicly beheaded on

Friday.

The kingdom has executed at least 11 people so far this year and 99 in 1989, many on drug-related charges.

Colonel Mohammed Asaad Al Maleki, director of Jeddah's Narcotics Department, said the problem first arose from the oil boom of the 1970s that brought many Gulf Arabs untold wealth.

Decrease

The death penalty, he said, had led to a "sharp and tangible decrease in the volume of narcotics smuggled into the country."

Figures were not available, but diplomats said they believed the quantity of drugs being brought into Saudi Arabia had diminished since the death penalty came into effect.

But it was still a problem and Saudi Arabia was in the early stages of grappling with its impact on society.

"We consider that we are starting to face the problem," Maleki told Reuters.

He said two hospitals had been built in Dammam and Riyadh specifically to treat addicts, and a third was about to be inaugurated in Jeddah. The clinics were called "Al Amaal" or hope.

"We consider addicts to be sick people and victims of the smugglers and dealers," Maleki said. "We are launching a ferocious (law and order) campaign... the amounts of drugs we have seized show we are on the right track."

Most drugs were smuggled into Saudi Arabia from Pakistan and Afghanistan, a source of hashish and high-grade heroin which drug enforcement officials call the golden crescent.

Illicit substances discovered by police in the kingdom were usually opium, heroin and hashish.

Local media reports suggest that Saudi Arabia's youth formed the most vulnerable social group and young travellers to the United States and Asia were particularly at risk.

In a series of full-page articles published over three days, the daily Al Riyadh newspapers quoted youths imprisoned for drug offences about the reasons for their involvement.

A loosening of traditional family authority, an over-abundance of wealth, low self-esteem, a lack of spiritual values, too much spare time and harmful association with expatriates were among the reasons cited in the interviews.

هكذا كانت الامم

\$100,000 initial budget for Aids bureau

East-Med centre based in Kuwait

RAPPOREUR of the information committee emanating from the Anti-Aids National Commission Dr Hussein Al Momen has said that the World Health Organisation has allocated \$100,000 as an initial budget for the East-Mediterranean Anti-Aids Information and Education Bureau which is scheduled to be established in Kuwait.

He told a local daily that Kuwait had of late begun preparations for the establishment of this bureau; which would be the first of its kind in the region, and would undertake the task of dissemination of anti-Aids information and education.

Momen said that a study was currently under way to arrange for holding a conference in Kuwait as part of the anti-Aids

information and education dissemination efforts, which would be submitted upon completion to the commission.

He said that the commission had been endeavouring to devise ways and means to render effective all of its proposed measures for combating this disease and raising public awareness adding that the campaign would be directed to all categories of people in society, whether students, expats, health staff, travel agents, press reporters and others.

Momen pointed out that programmes would be developed drawing on the analogy of programmes devised by the international seminar on Aids which was held in 1989 and that these would be used as part of the bureau's means to spread anti-Aids education.

He said that the commission was currently considering the introduction of a new telephone service to receive queries from the public or requests for information on the disease, and that this service was expected to see the light before the start of the forthcoming summer season.

He said that the commission had already produced about one hundred tapes for use on the proposed public Aids query telephone line, so that operators would be able to answer questions posed by callers from the information recorded on these tapes.

He added that queries which had no direct information available would be responded to after compilation of the required information and the inquirer will

be called within 48 hours.

He added that all subjects recorded were in Arabic and that steps were being studied to supply a similar service in English, adding the commission was currently considering the suspension of Aids-carrier deportation if they proved not to be dangerously contagious.

He said that the transmission of the Aids-causing virus was only possible through three ways, being sexual intercourse, intravenous drug shots and blood transfusion.

He stressed that the deportation would be carried through in case the Aids patient is tested dangerously positive for the Aids virus, or failed to comply with doctors' measures through disciplining his social interactions.

Negative consensus for ban on used car imports

National interests considered: Khaled

THE recent decision banning the import of used cars over and above the two years after the date of manufacture is aimed primarily at protecting the interest of Kuwait's consumers, Faisal Al Khaled, Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry said in an interview with a local daily.

The official said that the decision had been taken in the light of a comprehensive study that was conducted by several parties. He commented that a car after four years of manufacture would not technically be in a good condition and accordingly the study had taken into consideration national interests, particularly towards protecting the environment.

He called on reporters to see the cars at ports that are five years old and to visualise for themselves the expense to purchasers in the form of maintenance as also the damage these cars cause to the environment.

He clarified that the cars already on the roads in Kuwait are technically tested by the traffic department upon the renewal of the car book. However, he disclosed that the ministry has decided to undertake tests on all second hand cars that are imported to ensure that they are in keeping with GCC specifications. For making such tests possible, the minister said that it will be necessary to organise a separate apparatus.

Speaking of cars that have already been shipped and on their way to Kuwait, those lying at various ports for shipment, and those for which letters of credit have already been opened, the official said that these have been exempted under decision No. 4.

To avoid any inconvenience to the importers, the minister said that they are welcome to provide documents in case they have any difficulties in this respect to prove that they fall within the exempted category of importers.

Study However, Khaled said that according to the study conducted on imported cars during the past five years, it has been observed that most orders placed during 1989 were for imports of cars manufactured two years ago. He disclosed that Kuwait has become a centre for the import of second hand cars and underscored the fact that the volume of Kuwait's imports in this connection were more than the GCC

countries jointly. In this respect he said that the GCC countries did not allow merchants to import cars of those models which have a local agent in the country.

Meanwhile, Khaled denied rumours that the ministry is being pressurised by local car agents to strictly enforce the ban, stressing that the relevant ban had been taken on the basis of pertinent studies conducted by the ministry itself.

He reiterated the fact that the ministry had not been in contact with local car agents, but had been in touch with about 35 car merchants who had been licensed to import second hand cars, clarifying that the information provided by these merchants on this issue coupled with the statistics compiled by the ministry were the criteria on which the relevant decision was based.

In a move designed to gauge the opinions of the general public to this decision, a local daily conducted an opinion poll. Mansour Sawaed, an importer described the decision as wise and said that it will protect citizens from being cheated. However, he said the decision will witness an increase in prices of existing second cars and will consequently compel people to look after their existing cars.

Prejudice Abdurazak Al Sharief, an owner of an establishment for second hand cars described the decision as prejudicial to firms such as his, as local agents and large companies will be sole beneficiaries of this decision. He said that consumers will be the sole losers as the decision will propel an increase of second hand vehicles. He added that the majority of imported second hand cars tallied with relevant import specifications.

Hameedi Al Daihani, an owner of an office for importing used cars said that the decision is timely and will help in reactivating the car market. However, he agreed that the new decision will tend to reflect in an increase in the prices of old cars, and compel car owners to use their old cars longer by taking extra care and these factors will contribute to better organising of the second hand car market.

Nader Owdeh, an importer said that owners of used cars firms had been adversely affected by the ministerial decision as it encourages the increase in the

price of used cars. He said that the decision had been designed to serve the interests of local agents. He commented that though the decision will enhance car prices, it will not reactivate the market movement.

Mohammed Sukhail, another importer said that the ministerial decision contains both positive and negative aspects. On the positive side, he said that the decision will ensure that imports of second cars are minimised and will contribute to the protection of purchasers and the environment. However, on the negative side, he said that the decision will increase the price of second hand cars. He said that the sole beneficiaries of this decision will be local agents and big companies. He said that he did not believe that the decision will contribute to reactivating the market.

The owner of Al Ibrahim Cars Company, Mohamed Al Ibrahim said that the decision will not be affected by the decision for the immediate future as the present economical situation is not conducive to an increase. Additionally, he said that the local vehicle market is stagnant at the time being due to the large number of car showrooms. He commented that the new decision directed solely at the interests of consumers.

The general director of the Masriya Company said that the decision has severely affected sales as it has prohibited the entry of 86 and 87 models — which are the most popular. He added that the timing of the decision is most inopportune as all dealers have been ill prepared. He said that the decision will only encourage people to purchase 1988 models, which are not available at the American nor German vehicles for the time being. He said that most of the offices were forced to raise their prices by KD200 on an average and added that neighbouring Gulf states will evidently benefit from the new decision.

The general co-ordinator of car companies was for the ministry to provide an extension of one year before implementing the decision.

Citizens, expressed negative responses and attacked the decision as being of considerable disadvantage to consumers — particularly those with limited incomes. A reliable source amongst the citizens informed the daily that government councils have been besieged by citizens to modify the new decision.

Premier receives former deputies

KUWAIT, Feb 17, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah received today a number of former members of the National Assembly to consult with them on everything of importance to the national interests in light of guidance by HH the Amir.

Talks during this positive meeting tackled all parts linked with the previous parliamentary experience and the practices which caused it to stumble. HH the Crown Prince praised the brotherly, frank and clear atmosphere of the meeting and underlined the importance of the views and ideas raised during the meeting and its role to enrich the dialogue which aims to reach the right formula to avoid the repetition of the previous negatives.

Sheikh Saad underlined his determination to continue meetings with the citizens and wished the meetings all the success for the benefit of the country and the people under the leadership of the Amir.

Kuwait festival begins

(Continued from Page 1)

the balance between historical traditions and means of progress.

To reach that accomplishment, education has been provided to all Kuwaitis, male and female, to the extent of his/her capability with schools covering all areas of the country. The Kuwait University offers various branches of knowledge and chances for post-graduate studies to those willing, in addition to the opportunity of scholarships for university or higher studies abroad.

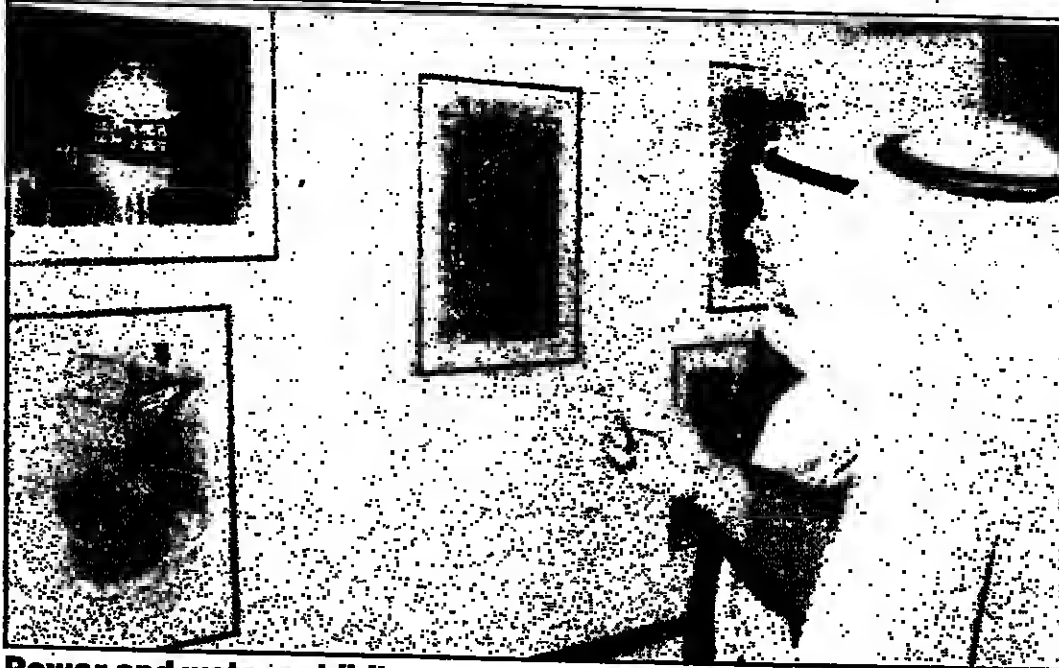
Thanks to the educational-cultural revolution, Kuwaitis have succeeded in leading the development and modernisation process.

The participation of various sectors of the society in preparing and executing plans served as a safety valve for the Kuwaiti society in face of foreign conspiracies and ambitions.

Such strong national unity was greatly manifested during the eight difficult years of Gulf war with all Kuwaitis closing ranks in defence of their country.

Based on that spirit the current dialogue is being held to lay down the basis for popular participation in steering the country's march for progress.

Iraqi message
KUWAIT, Feb 17, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir today received Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdel Rahim Al Chalabi who handed him a message from President Saddam Hussein.



Power and water exhibit

Under the auspices of the Minister of Electricity and Water, Dr Hmoud Al Rqobah, the undersecretary of the ministry, Abdullah Al Munayes opened Thursday the first photographic exhibition on rationalisation of power and water consumption. A number of photographs by amateurs and professionals were exhibited at the Bneid Al Qar sea club. The exhibition will remain open for several days.

Closing date for tender Feb 26

Iraqi fresh water project progressing

THE Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Hmoud Al Rqobah has said that the Iraqi fresh-water-supply-to-Kuwait project is progressing according to plan inside of the Turkish Ataturk Dam and the consequent cut by the Turkish government of the Euphrates River water.

He told a local daily that a tender for the project design and supervision works had been invited, the closing date of which is Feb 26. The successful bidder will be announced by end of March this year. Consultants will by the end of this year prepare the final project designs.

Project related works, such as the necessary soil tests and final pipeline route location had in the meantime been arranged for and a local pipe-making company had been assigned to manufacture special pipes for the project based on pre-studied specifications, the official said.

Efforts

He added that the ministry had exerted intensive efforts to ensure that the coming summer period would witness no unfortunate power cuts, and the total load amount expected for the coming period would reach 4,400 megawatt.

He stressed the high efficiency of the existing public power grid as evidenced by the technical reports submitted by experts

brought from abroad and commented that the reports also indicated that the network was performing better than before and that the reports included steps recommended by the Swedish, English and French experts as measures to ensure that no potential power cuts would occur in the future.

Rqobah said that the ministry had been constantly developing computerised power control tower in Jabriya within the framework of efforts exerted to prevent any likely power cut in the coming summer.

Costs

He explained that the loss of a power generating unit with 150 or 200 megawatt during the winter would disturb the power flow balance, as the total load amount would be 1,500 megawatt, while the loss of a similar unit during the summer when the total power load reached 4,400 megawatt would be slight and unnoticed.

He said that the power supply to the public cost approximately KD300 million each year and that the existing government support for the agricultural sector in the country was adequate. Therefore, no free-of-charge power supply is likely to be provided to farmers in Abdali and Wafra.

He pointed out that the ministry subsidised the household power supply by 85 per cent of the cost, and that each 1,000 gallons of water would cost the ministry KD2 but was sold to consumers for 300 fils only. He stressed that the supply of Iraqi fresh water to Kuwait would, hopefully, commence early 1993.

Measures

He also said that the ministry had taken many measures to fulfill the wish of HH the Amir in making a qualitative and quantitative leap in the level of public services.

He said that these measures included the development of national cadre, provision of specialised training to ministry staff to be better qualified for running this vital public service sector, reduction of project cost without affecting the quality level or economic yield, co-operation with Kuwait University and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research through the formation of an ad-hoc committee which would confer with the minister to work about ways to step up the productivity and performance of a certain sector, and finally the expansion of the existing computerised power supply control tower in Jabriya, besides the upgrading of its existing equipment to meet the constantly growing requirements.

Commemorative stamps for N. Day

THE Postal Affairs Department at the Ministry of Communications is pleased to issue a new set of commemorative postage stamps on the occasion of the "29th Anniversary of National Day." The details of these stamps are as follows:
Date of issue:

25th February 1990.
Design depict:
The pigeon representing Kuwait, flying around the globe to spread peace and love.
Denominations and quantities printed:
25 Fils — 250,000 stamps,
50 Fils — 250,000 stamps,

150 Fils — 1,000,000 stamps.
Dimensions of each stamp:
30.5 mm. vertically
40.5 mm horizontally.
Sheet composition: 50 stamps
Printing process: Offset — litho
Printers: Job Unschede, en Zonen — Holland.

Five-day week in Bahrain a success

By Yakub Razzaque
Arab Times staff

THE five-day working week which was introduced by the government in Bahrain early this month for most civil servants employed in the government ministries and directorates has been reported by official sources to be functioning effectively and living up to general expectations of all concerned.

According to a spokesman of the Civil Service Bureau the new system, which was launched on an experimental basis for six months, has been running smoothly in all departments concerned. He said there have been no complaints about employees coming late to work and the general response from them has been satisfactory.

The idea to implement the five-day week was devised by authorities here with the aim of cutting down government costs in overhead expenses in offices in terms of electricity, transportation and overtime charges and to enable employees to have more time at hand to spend on leisure and personal chores at home with their families. The system has been designed to mutually benefit both the government and employees in the civil service.

The five-day week has also been welcomed by the business community, with traders reporting brisk business over the weekends at the Manama Souk and other shopping centres throughout the country.

However, in order to provide continued services to the public in certain fields the government announced that a list of certain offices at ministries and directorates will remain open on Thursdays. These offices include Immigration, Postal Services, Health Centres and Customs among others.

On the negative side, the five-day week has been received with some reservations by some individuals as indicated by letters to the local press. The grievances, mostly by working-wives, refer to inconvenience related to joining husbands and children at lunch on time. The complaints in most cases are few and deal with trivial matters. Based on conversations with some local taxi-drivers it appears that cabbies are mostly affected by the five-day week as few people tend to go out on weekends, preferring to stay at home with their families.

Sabah leaves

KUWAIT, Feb 17, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber leaves tomorrow for Baghdad and Amman on two official visits to Iraq and Jordan.

During his visits Sheikh Sabah will confer with his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz and Jordanian counterpart Marwan Al Qassem on bilateral relations and current Arab developments.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister's talks will also deal with the dangers posed by Soviet Jews emigration to occupied Palestine and their settlement in the occupied lands.



MEW contract signed

A contract was signed yesterday between the Ministry of Electricity and Water and a Turkish company for the construction and maintenance of civil, constructional, architectural and complementary works for the Subhiyah Power Station Project.

The contract was signed on behalf of the ministry by the Minister Dr Humoud Al Rqobah.

The value of the contract is about KD105 million and it is expected to be completed in June 1995.

United Arab Emirates joins ivory, rhinoceros horn trade ban

GENEVA, Feb 17, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates, once a big trader in ivory and rhinoceros horns, will join Cites the world body which bans such trade, the organisation said Friday.

"Given the important role played by the United Arab Emirates in elephant ivory, rhinoceros horn and other products, the return of this country to the Cites family is an important step for the conservation of species threatened by trade," Secretary-General Eugene Lapointe said in a statement.

Cites, the UN convention on international trade in endangered species, banned ivory trade in a controversial bid last October to save the elephant. Rhinoceros horn, sought for dagger handles and love potions, had already been banned.

The UAE, a union of seven independent emirates, withdrew from Cites in January 1988 apparently because of a lack of national legislation to carry out Cites trade bans.

Luibui, for example, banned ivory and rhinoceros trade last June but that did not prevent commerce from spreading to other parts of the UAE.

"Our satisfaction is even greater because, before rejoining, the United Arab Emirates took all of the necessary steps that will allow them to apply the convention effectively," Lapointe said.

Five Southern African ivory producing countries as well as China took out "reservations" to the ivory trade ban, meaning that they would continue to trade. Britain did the same on behalf of Hong Kong, but only for six months.

To protect the rhinoceros, more endangered than the elephant, Cites would like to attract the Yemens, where nearly every man wears a curved dagger. Handles can be made from other products, but rhinoceros horn is most prized.

The UAE has submitted its declaration of joining Cites and will formally become the group's 106th member on May 9.

Rangeland management conference March 3-6

By Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff

INTERNATIONAL, regional and local experts on range management will meet next month at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research to set up future strategies for the optimal management of rangelands in the Arabian Gulf, said Dr Mohammad Al Attar.

In a press conference held yesterday to announce the Second International Conference on Range Management in the Arabian Gulf, Attar, head of the conference's organisational committee, said that this scientific meeting also aims at reviewing new techniques in this field and selecting those that are applicable to arid and semi-arid zones, in addition to following up on the recommendations of the first conference and reviewing the obstacles and difficulties faced in implementing them.

Attar added that 45 papers have been accepted for presentation at the four-day conference that will open at KISR on March 3. These papers will discuss rangelands in Arabian Gulf countries, range plants, potential for irrigated forage crops, animal production from rangelands and grazing systems.

"Two awards will be presented at the conference. The first award will go to an outstanding GCC scientist in range management. The winner will receive KD300. The second award will go to the author of the best research paper presented at the conference, and the winner will receive \$1,000 and a certificate of acknowledgement," Attar said.

Experts from the United States, France, China, Italy, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Kuwait will be the principal speakers at the event. Participants will take a trip to Kuwait's rangelands and visit a number of local agricultural companies.

The conference is organised by KISR, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, the Environment Protection Council and the Gulf Co-operation Council.

25 countries to participate in Dubai International Spring Fair

THE International Spring Fair is ready to make exhibition history as it gets set to open its 15th anniversary year, from Feb 27 - March 10, 1990 at the Dubai World Trade Centre Exhibition Halls.

This year's fair will once again display the most modern and newly developed commercial and industrial products from 25 different countries, characterising the phenomenal development and economic boom that has marked the Gulf region in general, and Dubai and the UAE in particular.

Al Fajer Information and Services, the organisers of the International Spring Fair, have taken extra measures in co-ordinating a market research project for the 15th International Spring Fair. This research takes into account, the preferences shown by the Gulf trade and consumer markets.

According to the managing director Fayez Ahmed, this was done because while the International Spring Fair encourages foreign countries to participate, "We also have a responsibility to display the items that are popular among the people who visit the fair. These are Gulf consumers who have faithfully supported us by their attendance throughout the years."

The purpose of conducting the research, said Ahmed, was not just to bring good bargains to consumers in the UAE but also to "offer to all visitors of the fair, a real chance to familiarise themselves with the international innovations that have taken place in the fields of industrial production and consumer goods, as well as making these products available at very special prices."

More than 25 countries will participate in this year's fair, which has become the

largest general trade exhibition of its kind in the Arabian Gulf. Several countries that have participated in the past are eager to exhibit again, especially keeping in mind the fact that it is the 15th anniversary year of the spring fair. Large areas of the fair have already been allocated to India, China, Iran, Spain, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania and Libya. Other participating countries are Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Hungary, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Thailand, and USA. The United Arab Emirates will also have a pavilion at the exhibition, and will display industrial equipment for factories, as well as a wide range of consumer products.

The major attraction for visitors will be a fair discount card, issued by Al Fajer Information and Services. This card will entitle holders to a discount of 50 per cent

on the price of entry tickets to the fair, inclusive of weekends. It also entitles the holders to a 50 per cent discount on the theatre programmes and the Al Fajer Amusement Centre. These cards will be made available to the public through advertisements in the local Arabic and English press, as well as through youth associations, sports clubs, women's associations and major commercial outlets (specific venues to be announced).

Speaking about the 15th anniversary, Fayez Ahmed said that he had "watched the International Spring Fair grow to achieve international status over the years." He said: "We are thankful to the people and businessmen of the Gulf and are now interested in giving something back. We have taken steps to make this a special exhibition and would like to see a large turnout of people at the fair."

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

FROM the sublime to the ridiculous there is only one step — Napoleon Bonaparte, French general - statesman (1769-1821).

Proving Jewishness

New obstacles for immigrants

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (AP): Asya Gomelsky survived two pogroms in her 83 years. Never did she expect her Jewishness to be called into question in the Jewish state.

But this is what happened when Mrs Gomelsky's 50-year-old son Boris asked Israel's Interior Ministry for identity papers for his family. The Gomelskys, from the Soviet city of Kharkov, were turned away because they had no documents proving the family was Jewish.

Their story and similar tales surfacing with the new rush of Soviet immigrants have sparked protests by Soviet activists and complaints by four liberal parties over policies of the Interior Ministry, which is controlled by the ultra-orthodox Shas Party.

"Do you know what it is to question the Jewishness of those who have suffered for generations in the Soviet Union for being Jewish," Robert Golani, head of a Soviet activist group, told the Jerusalem Post daily.

Mrs Gomelsky, who appeared on Israel television this weekend, touched many Israelis with the tale of her sufferings during Russia's 1917 revolution and civil war.

"I survived two pogroms and was persecuted as a Jew, and here in Israel they tell me I'm not Jewish," Mrs Gomelsky wept. "In 1919... they wanted to rape my elder sister and when my father tried to protect her they cut him with sabers, and we ran away to hide in the fields."

After the TV broadcast, several ministers questioned Interior Minister Arye Deri, a member of Shas, in a cabinet meeting Sunday. Soviet activists warned the following day they would take to the streets over Deri's policies.

But a visit to Interior Ministry offices here showed several recent Soviet arrivals who came from identity cards still were being turned away under the same policy.

"Go home and come back when you have papers showing you are Jews," an official told them to the protests of Israelis waiting in line. Those rejected can get rent subsidies and other benefits as immigrants, but their ID cards do not say "Jewish." Without that word, the card's holder may have trouble with marriage, divorce or other personal matters controlled by the ultra-orthodox establishment.

For years, the Interior Ministry also has been ruled by the ultra-orthodox, for whom the mostly secular wave of Soviet Jews is a mixed blessing if not a direct threat.

The expected arrival of up to 300,000 Soviet Jews in the next three years could undermine Israel's delicate balance of power to which three ultra-orthodox parties and a religious one usually hold the key to forming coalition governments.

Neither of the country's two major parties, the right-wing Likud Bloc or centre-left Labour Party, have never won enough seats in the 12-member Parliament to govern on their own, meaning each scrambles to bring the religious parties into coalitions.

Over the years, Israel's religious community used this power to pass laws favouring the orthodox and enforce rules forcing businesses and entertainment spots to close on the sabbath, from sundown Friday till sundown Saturday.

The ultra-orthodox fear this may change with the Soviet Jewish immigration wave, which they claim includes many couples of mixed marriages and even non-Jews.

In mid-January, the ultra-orthodox Yom Hashishi weekly claimed that Israeli officials in Moscow "reject immigration requests of elderly religious Jews, preferring young intellectual couples in spite of a large percentage of mixed marriages among them."

"This selection will change in the coming years the face of the Israeli society," it charged.

Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer last week fuelled the controversy by saying up to 30 per cent of the Soviet immigrants were non-Jews trying to find a way to escape the Soviet Union.

Israel's law of return grants automatic citizenship to Jews — even descendants of a Jewish man — and their spouses, even if they are non-Jewish.

Dissolution urged

MOSCOW, (Reuters): The Soviet Union's once omnipotent Communist Party, having agreed to forego its political monopoly, is now facing calls to take a final step — and dissolve.

Firm supporters of Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms are urging the Kremlin leader to rethink his proclaimed devotion to traditional Marxism-Leninism and lead a new socialist party.

The calls to dissolve the party are so far coming mostly from radical intellectuals.

But there are signs that even dedicated members of the party, which has ruled the country for seven decades, are coming around to the view that its days are numbered.

"To achieve a total break with the past, the Soviet Communist Party has only one way out — self-dissolution," wrote Leninist author Mikhail Chulaki in the latest edition of Moscow News, a reformist weekly whose editorial offices were badly damaged in a fire overnight.

In the current affairs journal Novoye Vremya, Moscow historian Leonid Batkin said the party would not survive the year in any form unless it followed Poland's communists by totally restating itself and taking a new name.

"After 40 years in the party," said one senior journalist, "I have come to recognise that most of what I thought I believed in was incantation based on holy texts written about a totally different world to the one we live in today."

"I believed implicitly in the party," said a 72-year-old retired school principal. "I believed even though my father and brother went to labour camps in the 1930s and perished there while my mother died of grief."

"Now I know it was all self-deception. For me, and many more of my generation, the party is dead and can never be brought to life again."

The mood of disillusionment is affecting the Supreme Soviet, the country's inner parliament.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1574 — Dutch rebels seize Zeeland.
- 1685 — La Salle, French explorer, establishes first settlement in Texas.
- 1856 — Reform edict is published in Turkish empire.
- 1884 — British forces under General Charles Gordon reach Khartoum in Sudan, but the Mahdi reject his offer to negotiate.
- 1900 — Piet Cronje surrenders to British at Paardeberg in South African war.
- 1915 — German blockade of England goes into effect as submarine war is intensified in World War I.
- 1945 — Pacific war battle for Iwo Jima begins in World War II.
- 1964 — Earthquakes rock Azores in eastern Atlantic, and ship battle high waves to evacuate people from San Jorge island.
- 1965 — African nation of Gambia becomes independent within British Commonwealth.
- 1970 — Young Filipinos storm US embassy compound in Manila protesting US military bases in Philippines and US economic policy.
- 1987 — Iraq announces two-week truce in its bombing campaign against Iranian cities in Gulf war.

Soviet pullout marks one year

Tribesmen yearn for peace

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (AP): A year after the Soviet army withdrew from their homeland, Afghan tribesmen turned rebels are still living in squalid camps in Pakistan and wondering when they can return home in peace.

Many seem as frustrated by factionalism among rebel leaders as by the staying power of their foe, communist President Najib.

"Most people don't care about the (rebel) leaders or Najib, they just want peace in Afghanistan," said one Afghan rebel who asked not to be identified.

After nine years and at least 13,000 Soviet deaths, the Red Army pulled out of Afghanistan Feb 15, 1989. It left behind a stalemate on the battlefield, and Western observers predicted US-backed rebels would soon overrun government troops and snatch victory from a demoralised Afghan army.

Relying on more than \$1 billion worth of Soviet military and humanitarian aid over the last 12 months, Najib has kept the cities under his control, and dealt rebels a political thrashing.

The rebel leadership, headquartered in Pakistan, is concentrated in the hands of seven Afghans who range from Islamic fundamentalists to Western-oriented royalists.

But like Najib, who is seen by most Afghan exiles as a Soviet puppet, the rebel leaders are increasingly viewed as ineffective figures dependent on US and Pakistani support.

Power

"Who has given these seven the power?" asked Naim Majrooh, head of a pro-rebel information centre. "Ask the friends of the Afghan resistance. It's not the people of Afghanistan."

The people, he said, have been dropped from the equation.

Majrooh said Afghans either have been terrorised into silence by some rebel leaders bent on carving out their political niche in the wake of the Soviet troop withdrawal, or they can't afford to speak up and risk losing their monthly stipend of food.

"They are dependent for everything in the camps and the economy inside the country has been so badly damaged," said Majrooh. "They have breakfast and they don't know where their dinner is coming from. They have been made into the silent majority."

More than 3 million Afghans live in war-torn-like camps throughout Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province. Another 2 million live in Iran.

The United States uses Pakistan as the conduit to funnel about \$500 million worth of military aid to the rebels each year.

But while Washington has been signing the cheques, Pakistan has been deciding who gets what. As a result, most of the aid has gone to a radical Muslim leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who shared the late president Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq's vision of Islam.

When Zia died in an August 1988 plane crash, the Afghan rebel leadership expected Hekmatyar to lose his favoured status.

Washington promised to keep a closer tab on the distribution of US aid after Hekmatyar's anti-US rhetoric heated up and stories of his party's brutal killing of rival rebels surfaced.

"But, nothing has changed," said Singhattullah Mojaddidi, president of the self-styled rebel government that is boosted by the United States and Pakistan as the engine behind a political end to the bloody and protracted war.

Several Afghan, Western and US sources corroborated Mojaddidi's claims. Some US observers to Pakistan questioned whether Washington wants to, or is able to, take control of the Afghan policy, which remains under Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence, comparable to the US Central Intelligence Agency.



LENIN TURNING OVER IN HIS TOMB

Tradition to the rescue

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (Reuters): Battered by failures on the battlefield and splits in its own ranks, the Afghan rebel leadership is falling back on tradition in its search for an end to the Afghan war.

A year after the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan amid wild hopes of an imminent rebel victory, there is little talk in the Pakistan frontier city of Peshawar of military conquest.

Now the leaders want to convene a traditional grand council, or Loya Jirga, of Afghan leaders and intellectuals to choose a new and more broad-based government.

For the mujahedeen, however, the bottom line remains the removal of President Najibullah and his Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

"We ourselves want a political settlement. We do not want to kill the people of Afghanistan but a political settlement, to keep our honour also

and to see that 11 years of struggle and 1.5 million victims... are not wasted," the President of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG), Sibghatullah Mojaddidi said.

"Our opinion is that as soon as possible Najibullah must go and power must be transferred to the government of the people," he said.

In talks in Moscow last week, US Secretary of State James Baker softened Washington's insistence that Najibullah should go before any peace talks as long as he steps down as part of the process.

Most peace plans envisage some form of interim government in Kabul which could involve former King Zahir Shah as the only prominent Afghan unaffiliated by the conflict.

The king, who has lived in Rome since being overthrown in 1973, has said he will play a role only if he has the support of an overwhelming

majority of Afghans.

The United States, main supporter with Pakistan of the Afghan rebels, has been putting increasing pressure on the mujahedeen to make themselves a more credible alternative to Najibullah, by including a broader cross-section of Afghans.

A disastrous attempt to capture Jalalabad city last year, fighting between rebel groups and the fear of Afghans left in the government-held cities of what the mujahedeen would do to them are blamed for the AIG's failure to make ground.

"I think this is the last chance for the leaders of the resistance," Afghan analyst Naim Majrooh said.

Six of the seven rebel groups in Peshawar are working on a plan to elect or select about 2,500 representatives from all over Afghanistan and among the five million refugees living in Pakistan and Iran, to form the Jirga.

Letters to the editor

Karachi violence

SIR: In some Pakistani circles, the contention is that the recurring violence in Karachi is a result of the political and religious tensions in the city. Another point of view, particularly by the end of Zia's era, was that the late president, in his own attempts to maintain power, manipulated divergent political forces in Sind with the purpose of keeping national attention diverted from the nation's overwhelming push towards democracy. Yet, some political analysts suggest that the recent and the continuous outbreak of violence in Karachi, specifically and in the interior of Sind in general, is the making of opposing political parties and forces in Pakistan who wish to maintain political power or by those who are bent on grabbing power from a legitimately elected government. It is said that every fair and unfair punch is being pulled to discredit one another. The Karachi situation comes as a handy political tool to inflict the desired damage on both sides.

Let us consider all of these possibilities one by one. It is true that India's possible role in the disturbances cannot simply be ruled out. India, itself faced with mounting ethnic and separatist problems, may perceive that its problems are mirrored by Pakistan's support. Or the Indian government may simply be pointing its finger towards Pakistan in order to divert the masses' attention from the problems within, seeking a scapegoat outside. To support this perceived scenario, India may actually be cooking up much of the trouble in Sind. But to pin total responsibility of Sind's and Karachi's ethnic problems on India's shoulders would be a far-stretched exaggeration of reality. For the principles and the dynamics of ethnic unrest are that they breed on the basis of indigenous discontent, extremists in a sanguine society are not born, they are the products of psycho-socio-economic-cultural deprivations that plague a society for a considerably unreasonable span of time. India may be able to exploit indigenous discontent, but it would be beyond the powers of external force to implant the discontent with such managing ferocity.

Explanation

The second possible explanation given is that the present turmoil in Sind and Karachi is the legacy of Zia's era. It is quite possible that late General Zia might have been guilty of exploiting the Sind situation for maintaining his personal hold on power. But the trouble with this contention is that it fails to explain why the violence has so ferociously increased since an elected government came to power in Islamabad over a year ago. There seems no solidarity of views emerging between the elected administration and the troubled groups.

Given the dynamics of normal political discourse in Pakistan, the third rationalisation of the Sind problem given above might be partially true. The opposition in Pakistan is singly-mindedly obsessed in bringing the People's Party government down; the PP, on the other hand, is equally determined not to give up power. The rules of the political game in Pakistan have been known to be uncouth, deliriously unsophisticated, excessively partisan, full of mock solemnity, and devoid of strategic solidarity. No wonder then that even the advent of democracy has still further escalated the

deterioration of political conditions and has, in fact, enlarged the web of complexity of problems and, consequently, the resolutions of the issues. But that ought to be expected in the maturing of a political process, albeit excesses in Pakistan are quite phenomenal.

Then what is the nature of the problem and how can the issue be resolved? The foremost thing to do is to acknowledge the fundamental truth in the basis of the problem: the fact is that in spite of several intervening variables, external as well as internal, the constant variables in the Sind political disruptions are the MQM's and the Sindhi's grievances. It is the exigency, sine qua non, to immediately and unconditionally acknowledge that the MQM and the Sindhis in the interior of Sind have several legitimate grievances. It is a fact that the MQM community has been denied several economic and socio-political opportunities and has been treated as a minority, at times contemptuously, resulting in precarious psychological insecurity. The net result now is that the MQM has taken a belligerent political stand. Considering the prevailing everyday conditions, such a behaviour is now without reasons.

In the same way, the Sindhi culture and language has been subjected to various imprudent pressures, and long-awaited land reforms in the interior of Sind have not been forthcoming. Consequently, the economic conditions of the Sindhi "hatri" have remained unchanged and have, in fact, become increasingly more difficult. In the absence of political recourse, long-delayed and overdue by at least two decades, the political conditions in the Sind province have become potentially threatening to the solidarity of Pakistan. It is a very precarious situation. With the Kashmir inferno blazing, India might attempt to seize upon the sympathies of the separatists in Sind.

Realities

We, as a nation, must also realise that the prevailing conditions in Sind are not the making of a person or of a particular party. All nations in the solidarity-making process go through several phases of highly polarised political enigmas. The enigmatic polarisation of such political forces become dangerous when the consequential enormity of such human phenomena is subjected to over-zealous emotionalism (as in the case of Pakistan now) and when the political mismanagement of such scenarios continues unabated. Unfortunately, this is exactly what is happening in Pakistan recently. Not everyone is a traitor in MQM and Sind, nor is everyone opposed to these forces everywhere else in Pakistan a patriot.

The government has been high on rhetoric, and the unfortunate negatively-oriented opposition has been single-mindedly attempting to escalate the cycle of violence to discredit Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government in order to grab power in Islamabad. The welfare of the people has not been on the agenda yet. The opposition in Pakistan has not been playing a constructive role so far.

The political management of the crisis by the People's Party, on the other hand, has been lacking in foresight. The appointment of a judicial commission by the prime minister to probe the causes of the recent violence in Karachi is symptomatic of the fact that the government has not applied itself completely to fully understand the dynamics of the Karachi and Sind problems earnestly; in fact, it has chosen to take a

course that it considers politically more appropriate in face-saving, and not expedient in the resolutions of the issues. The idea is, let us find scapegoats and expose them to the public. The judicial commission probe will serve as a political gimmick to pin down the perpetrators of the so-called crimes, punish them, and allow the government to wash their hands of the responsibilities for the crisis. However, the commission report will not help curb the violence itself, particularly interminably.

We already know that the present crisis is not the making of this government, however, the resolution of these problems is the responsibility of this administration.

It would be advisable for Islamabad to demonstrate a crisis-management approach rather than a legalistic orientation to the ensuing problems. Fortunately enough for the prime minister, there is an unparalleled paradox in the Karachi crisis: severe and this situation poses the most serious threat to the prime minister's administration, however, she can take this hopeless situation and turn it into a winning card ensuring a public mandate for virtually indefinite continuation of her government.

Reconstruction

Starting from Karachi, the Prime Minister has to embark on an ambitious large-scale reconstruction plan to hit at the core of the economic, social, psychological, educational, employment, health and business deprivations of the slum areas of Karachi city. A construction of a new city, self-sufficient in every sphere, such as reasonable housing, schools, hospitals, shops and local markets, streets and street lighting, water and sanitary amenities, and above all, the absorption of all the unemployed persons, male and female, skilled, semi-skilled, and non-skilled. This must get off the ground now. It would not be a new undertaking in Pakistan. Close to the troubled areas in Karachi is the self-sufficient city of the Pakistan Steel Mill. It could serve as a model for the new endeavour. Politically, the administration and the construction of the city (outside Karachi) must be done by incorporating the MQM and every other group in the low-lying troubled areas of Karachi. This must be an experiment in integration political strategy.

Pakistan can learn from the advanced nations and the Gulf Arab states that affluence and the economic well-being of the masses has proven to channel the political energies of a people into non-violent, constructive, peaceful and co-operative directions. In a large part, the violence in Karachi and Sind is the product of the absence of the economic well-being of the people in slums and the accompanying human distortions that deprivations inflict on humanity.

Can we hope that the opposition will allow the elected government to do its job?

Dr Haider Mehdi,
Kuwait University,
Shuwaikh campus.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Army balking at commands

MOSCOW, (UPI): For Mikhail Gorbachev, ominous signs have emerged that the army may be sick of being thrown into ethnic strife to hold together a crumbling Soviet empire.

Radio Moscow's Interfax service reported Wednesday that the headquarters of the army garrison in Dushanbe, the capital of Tadzhikistan, said its soldiers would not enter the Tadzhik strife the way the army garrison in Azerbaijan did in the capital of Baku Jan 20.

"The division which is deployed in Dushanbe has not entered into this conflict and will not do so," Interfax said.

In addition, the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda made a stunning disclosure Wednesday by reporting the names of three veteran officers who refused to go to Baku when ordered and said the three had received only reprimands. Soldiers might have been shot for less in the pre-Gorbachev era.

Ominous

In a further ominous sign, Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov this week denied that the army was paralyzed by the "Tbilisi Syndrome."

The reference is to troops who were ordered into Tbilisi, Georgia on April 8 to disperse a peaceful nationalist rally in which 21 people died. It also refers to the army's refusal to act now because a Soviet leader has been willing to shoulder the blame for ordering in the troops.

With the explosion of ethnic violence in the Soviet Union over the past two years, troops have been sent to six republics in Central Asia and the Transcaucasus in the south.

Using the army to hold the empire together may be distasteful. What would be worse would be ordering troops to stop demonstrations in a Russian city, chiefly to thwart violence aimed at ousting Communist Party bosses. Such violence has erupted in Dushanbe and Baku.

Troops

In 1961, Nikita Khrushchev dispatched troops to Novocherkassk to end a workers' strike. About 60 Russians were killed.

The army garrison in Baku was besieged when Gorbachev ordered army units and reservists to enter the Azerbaijan capital to stop anti-Armenian pogroms and crush what he now says was a coup attempt by extremists in the Azerbaijan National Front.

Officers and men of the Soviet Armed Forces seem unafraid to openly and bitterly label Azerbaijan "an internal Afghanistan," or, as one soldier who suffered severe burns in Baku said on national television, "This is what democracy comes to."

In Wednesday's issue of Komsomolskaya Pravda, three Soviet officers, two of them veterans of the war in Afghanistan, explained why they refused to go to Baku Jan 20. Their justification was published on the eve of the anniversary of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. The Soviets invaded the country in December 1979.

Mistake

"I served for two years in Afghanistan," Capt. Alexander Kalashnikov said. "I know what blood is, what human losses are, and the sending of troops to Afghanistan is now called a mistake."

"It could easily happen that in a year or two the sending of troops into Azerbaijan will be called a mistake."

The paper said all three officers "spoke of what is now called the Tbilisi Syndrome, which is a many-sided concept comprising illegality of decisions, causing tragic consequences and attempts made by chiefs of different levels to avoid responsibility."

Quote me

"It is true that top athletes in power sports have been doping here to boost their training for years. It all started in the mid-1970s. Athletes have mainly taken drugs, such as anabolic steroids, during training. It has been carefully controlled. Coaches and doctors have known all about it. Some athletes have been forced to take the drugs," — an East German sports scientist.

"We're going to stay with our proposal because we don't see this linkage... we've got a big ocean between US and Western Europe." — Bush explaining why the United States should be allowed slightly higher troop levels after Gorbachev proposed equal troop cut in Europe.

"Those hampering the return of legitimacy to all Lebanese territory bear the responsibility for the current fighting. Stability can be attained only through the legitimate government." — Lebanese Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein.

"Controversy is good for everybody. The scathing indictment that I have received is priceless. Only in America. But first of all, let's get the rematch. As you know, the catching comes before the hanging." — Don King on the Tyson-Douglas bout.

"I have no excuses. I lost. It's just a temporary, minor setback. I'll be the champ again. I'm not the kind of guy who's going to cry when you take the bottle away. I'm still one of the best fighters in the world, and when the rematch comes, I'll prove it." — Mike Tyson.

"In connection with a sharp complication of the situation in Dushanbe, the routing of public order, the appearance of extremist groups, the burning of shops, the appearance of arson and robberies, the president in the Tadzhikistan Supreme Soviet announced a state of emergency and imposed curfew from 10 pm to 6 am in Dushanbe," — official Tass news agency on state of emergency imposed because of violence.

"I'm bound by the law. What I do want to do is discuss these provisions with Mr. Mandela and (South African President F.W. de Klerk)." — Bush on US sanctions on South Africa.

"I am confident that if we continue this kind of momentum in our bilateral relationship with the Soviet Union the June summit will be a major success," — President Bush.

"We support Chancellor Kohl's proposal that a unified Germany should remain a member of Nato," — US President George Bush.

"It is impossible to have wage increases of 10 to 20 per cent when production only increases by one per cent. If the merry-go-round continues, the wage market will end up in anarchy," — Kjell-Olof Feldt, Swedish finance minister on economic crisis in the country.

"Compromises must be made in respect to every issue, as long as that compromise is in the interest not only of one population group but the country as a whole," — Nelson Mandela told reporters.

"The sovereignty of the island is something that we cannot forget. We feel that the best way of confronting these things is with an amicable relations and the creation of links between the two countries. The (exclusion) zone has disappeared. We have tried to normalise a situation which did not favour us." — An Argentine negotiator on talks with Britain over the Falklands.

International terrorism on the decline

WASHINGTON, Feb 17, (AP): International terrorist incidents declined 25 per cent last year, in part because of a drop in Palestinian terrorism, but attacks by Iran-sponsored Shiite groups are on the rise, a US official said yesterday.

Preliminary figures compiled by the State Department also showed a 27 per cent drop in the number of fatalities from terrorist acts — from 660 to 485.

While no exact figure for terrorist incidents is available for 1989, it is about 25 per cent lower than the 1988 total of 856, an official said on condition of not being identified. The 1988 figure was 3 per cent higher than in 1987.

Experts attribute last year's decline to better security measures at airports, more commitment by governments to bring suspected terrorists to trial

and a drop in the activities of Palestinian groups.

The largest faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Fatah, has refrained from attacks in keeping with a pledge made in December 1988 by its leader, Yasser Arafat, the US official said. He predicted Fatah would continue on this course.

Less certain, he said, is the future of two radical Palestinian groups dormant in 1989: The Fatah Revolutionary Council headed by Abu Nidal and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, headed by Ahmed Jibril.

Ahu Nidal's group has been paralysed by internal dissension that led the Libyan-based leader to order dozens of followers killed over the past two years, PLO sources said. Western sources confirmed those

accounts but said the group still posed a threat.

They said some Abu Nidal operatives joined the Syrian-based PFLP-GC.

FBI and intelligence officials believe the PFLP-GC carried out the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland, in which 200 people were killed.

Syria has temporarily restrained the PFLP-GC because of the international outrage following the Pan Am disaster, said Ariel Merari, an expert on international terrorism from Tel Aviv University in Israel.

Jibril is thought to have carried out the attack under contract to Iran, which has been accused of sponsoring dozens of terrorist acts around the

world.

Iranian-sponsored terrorist activity has increased in the six months since the death of Iran's revolutionary leader, the Ayatollah Khomeini, officials said.

The State Department warned earlier this month that pro-Iranian extremists might plan a terrorist attack against Americans in Europe to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution that brought Khomeini to power.

Indications of stepped up Iranian activity stem partly from a shipment of explosives intercepted last November in Barcelona, Spain. The explosives were sent from Lebanon by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah network of Shiite extremists.

Syrians might dump radicals

Boost to Mideast peace

CAIRO, Feb 17, (UPI): Damascus, fearing increased isolation, may drop support for radical Palestinian groups, in a move seen as a major boost to the ongoing US-sponsored Mideast peace process, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry source said yesterday.

Syria, traditionally Moscow's closest ally in the Middle East and considered by Arab analysts to be the arch-enemy of both Israel and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat, is also inching toward closer ties with the United States, the Foreign Ministry source said.

Syrian President Hafez Assad's gradual turning against the radical Palestinian groups has helped create a more realistic picture of the Arab field, ending years of isolation, the source said.

It also follows Egypt's recent return to the Arab fold, ending years of isolation following its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, the newspapers said. Egypt restored diplomatic ties with Syria on Dec 27, 1989, and Cairo's troubled relations with another radical Arab state, Libya, have improved considerably after two recent meetings between Mubarak and Libyan leader Col Muammar Khaddafi.

One of the basic elements in the dialogue between (Egyptian President Hosni) Mubarak and Assad, is getting Syria more involved in the current peace process," the Egyptian Foreign Ministry source told United Press International in a telephone interview. The source requested anonymity.

Egypt considers itself a key player in the ongoing Mideast peace efforts, which US Secretary of State James A. Baker hopes will lead to Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. Cairo, which is representing the PLO in talks with Washington and Israel, said it hoped a meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, the United States and Israel — which Baker sees as a prelude to the dialogue — can take place in the near future. Cairo said the meeting was scheduled for Geneva last week, but was later postponed.

"Egypt has received signals from Damascus that Syria may be prepared to drop support for Palestinian groups opposed in Arafat," the Foreign Ministry source said. "This would boost peace efforts."

Most prominent among Arafat's opponents, Arab analysts say, is Ahmed Jibril's Syria-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC). Jibril has attacked Arafat's current peace moves, including his denunciation of terrorism and recognition of the Jewish state in Geneva in Nov 1988, one month before the PLO began an unprecedented dialogue in Tunis with the United States.

Western investigators believe Jibril's organisation carried out the bombing of a Pan American Airways flight over Lockerbie, Scotland in Dec 1988, although Jibril — an advocate of continued armed struggle against Israel — has denied this.

Jibril's PFLP-GC also claimed responsibility for a rifle and grenade attack on a bus carrying Israeli tourists in Egypt on Feb 4, 1990, which left at least nine Israelis dead and 16 other persons wounded. Jibril's claim led Egypt's government-supervised press to brand the Palestinian leader a "terrorist" for the first time.

"Syria is also encouraging Abu Moussa (another Palestinian radical leader opposed to Arafat and based in Syria, who helped Damascus oust Arafat from Lebanon in 1983), to close ranks with Arafat," the Foreign Ministry source said. The source said Assad had asked Samir Ghousha, another Syrian-based Palestinian radical, to "mend fences with Arafat."

The source said Jordan's appeal to Syria on Thursday to revive the so-called eastern front against Israel with its ideological for Iraq, was part of Arab efforts, "to bring Syria into the mainstream of the Arab fold, as the peace process develops."

Arafat's relations with Syria cooled after the core of the PLO under Arafat's leadership rejected Syrian domination of their forces in Lebanon in the mid-1970s. Syrian and PLO rebel forces, led by Abu Moussa and Abu Saleh, trapped Arafat in the Lebanese port of Tripoli in Nov 1983, forcing Arafat to evacuate his fighters.

One Cairo-based Western diplomat said Syria also wanted to improve ties with the United States, damaged after Washington accused Damascus of sponsoring terrorism.

The diplomat pointed to a Kuwaiti report on Tuesday, which said Syrian army Chief of Staff Hekmat Al Shehawi visited Washington secretly last week and held talks with senior US officials. The Kuwaiti newspaper report described the visit as the highest contact since President George Bush came to office in January last year.

The envoy said one of Arafat's conditions for improved PLO-Syrian ties is that Damascus halt support for his radical opponents. "Once that is achieved, Arafat could improve ties with Damascus," he said.



Savage battles in East Beirut
Lebanese army troops loyal to defiant General Michel Aoun deploy in a street of Pura al-Chubak area in battered East Beirut after they gained it from Lebanese Forces following 20 hours of savage bombardment.

(At right) three Lebanese army soldiers use truck wheels as a barricade during savage battles. (Reuters wirephotos)

Israeli settlement plan illegal, declares UN

US abstains but describes move an obstacle

GENEVA, Feb 17, (Agencies): The United Nations called on Israel yesterday to refrain from settling immigrants in the occupied territories.

The UN Human Rights Commission, in a resolution passed by 42 votes to zero, also said Israel's entire settlement policy for the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights was illegal.

The United States abstained in the vote but described settlements as "an obstacle to peace."

European Economic Community and other states introduced the resolution after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last month that a big Israel was needed to accommodate the expected flood of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

The commission said it was "seriously concerned at the recent suggestions that immigrants to Israel may be settled in the occupied territories." It called on the government "to refrain from settling immigrants in the occupied territories."

Palestinians have expressed alarm that new settlements will make it more difficult to recover the territories in the long term. They also say new settlements compete with Palestinians for scarce resources like ground water.

The commission resolution said "the settling of Israeli civilians in the occupied territories is illegal and contravenes the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention."

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which monitors implementation of the Geneva conventions, also said on Tuesday that the settlements were illegal.

US ambassador Morris Abram said his government disagreed with the way certain parts

of the resolution were phrased, but he added: "We believe that settlements are an obstacle to peace. We believe that putting more settlers in these areas, particularly at this time, works against the cause of peace."

The commission passed other resolutions, similar to ones approved in past annual sessions, "strongly condemning" the continued occupation as well as a long list of what it called human rights violations from torture to deportations.

The Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organisation denounced Israel's unlawful establishment of Soviet immigrant settlements on occupied Arab territories, the official Tass news agency reported.

The agency said the denunciation came during a meeting yesterday at the Foreign Ministry between Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov and a PLO delegation comprising its executive committee members Mohamed Abbas and Sulaiman Al Najab.

In Baghdad, Yasser Arafat discussed with four Arab foreign ministers the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel, a PLO official said today.

Azzam Al Ahmed, the PLO's bureau chief in Baghdad, said Arafat's talks covered attempts to call an emergency Arab summit on Jewish immigration.

The foreign ministers of Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen were in Baghdad to discuss the agenda for a Feb 24-26 summit of



Anti-Rushdie march
Pro-Iranian Muslim militants burn the poster of British author Salman Rushdie in West Beirut during a demonstration. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israeli planes attack Amal militia post

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 17, (AP): Israeli warplanes yesterday raided a southern Lebanese position of the mainstream Shiite Amal group, the military command said.

The raid came to punish Amal for what the army command termed "an increase in (anti-Israeli) attacks ... and its assistance to infiltrations of Palestinian terrorists."

"Israel has no absolutely no interest in a confrontation with the Amal movement but if this process continues Israel would not be able to sit idly and will have to respond," warned an Israeli army official.

In a short statement, the army command said that the target in the southern Lebanese village of Al Hajjah served as an Amal co-ordination outpost and a departure point for joint attacks by Amal and the Palestinian groups.

Al Hajjah is located about 10 kilometres (six miles) south of the Lebanese port city of Sidon.

"The target was hit, and all our planes returned safely," the army said without specifying the type of aircraft that took part in the attack.

In Beirut, Lebanon, an Amal source said the attack was carried out by two Israeli helicopter gunships at about 18.15 GMT (8.30 pm).

The source said that the gunships dropped four rockets into an empty Amal position and that no casualties were reported to the Amal headquarters in Beirut.

The source said the position was located near the Shiite town of Zifita, about four kilometres (2.4 miles) southeast of Al Hajjah.

It was Israel's fourth air raid into Lebanon this year. The last attack was on Jan 25 against a Palestinian base of the Abu Nidal faction east of Sidon.

The attack against Amal was highly unusual since that movement has been widely described by Israeli military observers as being at odds with Israel's fiercest enemies in south Lebanon — Palestinians and the Hezbollah.

However, Israeli army sources noted an increasing co-operation between senior Amal commanders and Palestinian organisations sending squads to carry out attacks in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon or in Israel.

Egyptian consul's son arrested in drug case

HOUSTON, Feb 17, (AP): The son of the Egyptian consul was arrested late Thursday after allegedly trafficking in the synthetic drug MDMA, known as "ecstasy," authorities said yesterday.

Sherif Elmagrawy, 27, son of consul Badar Elmagrawy, was arrested late Thursday after undercover officer bought about 1,000 tablets of the drug, said Sgt Bill Kessler of the Harris county organised crime narcotics task force.

The drug is a methamphetamine derivative, which users say induces a euphoric state. It was legal through the mid-1980s and some psychiatrists used it to enhance patients' memories and lead them to insights.

Elmagrawy was held without bond yesterday at the county jail, said Kessler. He was on bond on three other drug charges at the time of his arrest, authorities said.

One of those arrested was a 16-year-old girl, who was released to her parents' custody, Kessler said. The other seven, including Elmagrawy, were charged with delivery of a controlled substance.

Kessler said the arrests were part of an investigation of ecstasy suppliers in the Houston area.

The younger Elmagrawy was driving a car with diplomatic license plates Kessler said, adding he didn't know whether the son would have diplomatic immunity.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

PLO criticised
CAIRO, Feb 17, (AP): Relations between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation continued to worsen today, as leading columnists in state-run newspapers attacked a top adviser to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

Newspaper editors close to President Hosni Mubarak have severely criticised the PLO this month for failing to issue an unequivocal condemnation of a Feb 4 terrorist raid that killed nine Israeli tourists in Egypt.

The latest salvo came in the Saturday edition of the daily Al-Ahram and weekly Akhbar El-Yom newspapers. They were aimed at Salah Khalaf, Arafat's main adviser, who recently called Egyptian newspaper editors "venomous snakes."

"These are irresponsible words from a Palestinian leader who is used to being impulsive, then retreating. But this time, he has passed his limit because he knows snakes well, and their pits which are within his circles of interest," wrote Ibrahim Nefzi, editor-in-chief of Al-Ahram and a confidante of Mubarak.

Farsi instruction
NICOSIA, Feb 17, (AP): Baku television in Soviet Azerbaijan yesterday began programmes teaching Farsi, the language spoken in neighbouring Iran.

Tehran television, said the Soviet provincial station will air regular programmes "to instruct audiences in Farsi and the Iranian culture."

Tehran and Moscow signed an agreement on Thursday to allow free travel across their frontier in Azerbaijan.

Under the agreement, Azerbaijanis on both sides of the border — who share a common language, culture and religion — can cross four times a year and travel in designated territories for up to 15 days.

Travel restrictions across the border were eased following demonstrations in January, when thousands of Soviet Azerbaijanis destroyed border fences and crossed into Iran for short visits.

While some Soviet Azerbaijanis have been calling only for free travel and trade across the border, more extremist nationalists have been agitating for creation of a "greater Azerbaijan," an independent homeland for some 20 million Azerbaijanis.

Militants arrested
CAIRO, Feb 17, (Reuters): Egyptian police have arrested five Muslim militants on charges of setting a video shop on fire in the central town of Assiut, security sources said today.

They said the five had confessed to the attack on Feb 9 to which a customer was hurt and the shop was destroyed.

30 detained in Tehran football riot

NICOSIA, Feb 17, (Reuters): Iran said today police arrested 30 football hooligans in a riot outside a Tehran soccer stadium sparked by the postponement of a key match.

The Iranian news agency Irna said soccer fans, angered because postponement of the match was announced earlier, stoned cars and buildings outside Shiroodi stadium yesterday.

It said fans chanted slogans against the football federation but "prompt action by the police ... minimised the damage to public property." Some of the 30 "hooligans" arrested were still in detention, it said.

The main opposition group, the Mujahadeen Khalo, said the protest was political and security forces had killed several people when they fired on "a massive demonstration."

In a statement sent to Reuters in Nicosia, the group said Tehran residents marched in the city.

Irna, quoted several Tehran newspapers as criticising radio and television stations for not broadcasting news of the cancellation in time. The papers said fans had travelled long distances.



Say in Tunis
A "humanitarian pilgrimage" led by Peggy Say, sister of the longest-held hostage in Lebanon, arrived in Tunis on Friday hoping to make a plea directly to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

Bush will ignore PLO talks limits

Gaza collaborator killed

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, Feb 17, (Agencies): President George Bush signed a \$9.8-billion State Department authorisation bill yesterday but imposed a number of provisions imposing limits on talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and any secret diplomatic mission.

Bush, who vetoed an earlier version of the bill, contended that his constitutional authority as president allowed him to disregard a section of the bill requiring that Congress be kept informed of secret diplomatic missions — a move prompted by unannounced US dealings with Beijing.

Under the measure, funding for talks with the PLO would not be provided if any of the PLO representatives could be linked to terrorist acts against the United States.

"If this section were interpreted to prohibit negotiations with particular individuals under certain circumstances, it would in effect limit my constitutional authority to negotiate with foreign organisations, Bush said in a statement issued by the White House.

Addressing the part about diplomatic missions, Bush objected that "such blanket reporting requirements could be read to compel the disclosure of the contents of sensitive ongoing negotiations and may, therefore, compromise my constitutional authority."

He said he would "construe these provisions in light of my constitutional duties."

Meanwhile, in Gaza, Palestinians today backed to death a young woman suspected of collaborating with Israel, resident said. Her brother was killed in an alleged informant last year.

Shahenaz Muhammad Abdullah Timraz, 22, was killed by unidentified axe-wielding youths in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah. Doctors said she had been hacked in the face and neck by a back blade.

Israeli soldiers backed by helicopters raided a West Bank village and tracked down Palestinians in nearby caves, arresting more than 100 suspected uprising activists, the army and Israel radio reported today.

Overnight, Palestinians attacked a 27-year-old man from Rafah with axes, wounding him critically, doctors said.

Six armed Palestinian militants axed to death a suspected Arab informer in front of some 250 spectators

Palestinian's sentence reduced

ATHENS, Feb 17, (AP): An appeals court yesterday reduced the 10 1/2-year prison sentence given a Palestinian convicted of the attempted murder of a Jordanian diplomat in 1984, a court spokesman said.

Without citing a reason or any mitigating circumstances, the court lowered the sentence of Amal Mabruki to 7 1/2 years.

Mabruki, 30, a Moroccan passport-holder, was convicted and sentenced in March 1986 for the attempted murder of Asim Ghussein, the charges of affairs of the Jordanian embassy. He was also found guilty of the illegal possession and use of weapons.

The Palestinian has consistently denied all charges and police have been unable to determine whether he belonged to any terrorist organisation, the spokesman said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

who gathered at a West Bank village square, Arab reporters said.

In Gaza Strip, Israeli troops shot and wounded at least five Palestinians in scattered stone-throwing clashes, Arab hospital officials said.

Palestinians yesterday observed a general strike called for by the unified leadership of the militia to step up confrontations with occupation forces as Israeli forces returned a number of villages and refugee camps in the West Bank and imposed curfews.

UN launches emergency food aid for Somalia

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 17, (Agencies): The United Nations last week launched an emergency relief programme for 140,000 refugees in northern Somalia who may face mass starvation.

Several UN relief organisations pulled out of Somalia last October when the country's brutal civil war made it impossible to distribute goods in the arid northwest region.

In a statement issued yesterday, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said the action was in response to an appeal by the Somali government, which has warned donors that 300,000 refugees could starve if aid were not forthcoming.

The emergency relief action would include 2,000 tonnes of food and UN agencies, such as the High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme, would resume humanitarian assistance "as soon as conditions allowed," the statement said.

Independently, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which still operates in the area, is also talking to the Somali government on plans to expand its programmes, it added.

The Somali government of Siad Barre, which has been accused by human rights groups of killing civilians indiscriminately in

the North, has assured the secretary general of its full co-operation in facilitating the aid.

A UN statement said "prevailing insecurity in the affected areas" prompted Perez de Cuellar to launch the new programme.

The ICRC also is trying to clear the way for the repatriation of Ethiopian refugees, working with a commission made up of officials from Ethiopia, Somalia and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The ICRC has agreed to assist in identifying the first group of 2,400 refugees already cleared for repatriation and determine if they want to return to their homeland.



I love to read

The American School of Kuwait (ASK) Salwa campus, is celebrating 'I Love to Read' month during February. All the classes are decorating their doors with book-themes. The students are being encouraged to spend extra time reading each night. Good reading habits developed in childhood will benefit a person throughout his lifetime.

ASK also held a bookmark contest and each student had an opportunity to create an original bookmark. Special guests have visited the classrooms to give talks about the value of reading. Children will dress up as an animal or person from a book for the parade. The parents are invited to attend the event. Prizes will be awarded to pupils who have reached the goal of reading for fun every day in the month of February.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Khair news
- 9.50 Cartoon Serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial (part 7)
- 1.4 That's Incredible: Foreign Variety Programme
- 12.25 News Summary
- 12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING

- 4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 4.45 Sabam Al Fadh: Cartoon Serial
- 5.15 Cartoons
- 5.45 Night chemists, air-lifts and official advertisements
- 6.00 Wa Qala Hakeem: Historical Serial (part 9)
- 7.00 Varities
- 7.15 The Agricultural Magazine: local programme, prepared and presented by Yaqouh Al Youssi
- 7.45 Diwanayat Shuaa Al Nabat: local programme
- 8.30 Good Evening and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Ahlam Sagheera: local serial (part 9)
- 10.45 Al Ikhteyar Al Hor: Arabic late night feature, starring Huda Sultan, Husaio Al Sherbeeni, Mejda Zaki and May Abdul Ghani
- 12.00 News Summary
- 12.05 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran

- Quran
- 6.10 The New Three Stooges. A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 The Beachcombers. "Poster Boy". As if coostable John doesn't have enough to worry about... He is stuck with corporal Dan Fellows looking over his shoulder... Dan seems to be having it all his own way with Gerri Dayton, the photographer...

- 7.00 The Celts "The Open Ended Curve." Interviews held and a display of antiques from the Celtic heritage showing the primitive life of the Celtic tribes...

- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Midnight Caller "Blues For Mr. Charlie" A special programme on the dangers of holding arms inadvertently... A case where an innocent man is murdered...

- 9.30 Coach "Define Romaooe" "Hydeo feels jealous when his girl-friend "Christine" goes to the opera with another man...

- 10.00 Q.E.D. "The Write Stuff" A look at writings analysis science as a new branch of psychology... Interviews held with experts in analysing writing from where they can tell about the personality of the writer...

- 10.30 Bestseller "The Shiralee" pt. 2 "Mac" returns with his daughter "Paster" to stay with his eldest daughter "Lily"... "Paster" falls sick and Mac leaves town searching for a new job...
- 12.00 News in Brief
- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Man oo Fire
Al Sabaya
Hall booked
Al Hamra
Agneepath
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Fardous
Agnee Path
Fahsheel Open
Ninja Operation
Al Jahra
Haqueqat
Granada
Rama-o-Rama

Sufistikat
Cry Freedom
Jeeb
Varavein
Ahmadi Drive-in
Brass Targets

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.05 am
Zohr 12.02 pm
Asr 3.14
Maghreb 5.39
Isha 6.57



Condolences for Thoppil Ravi

"THE Indian political community has lost a unique personality in the democratic establishment who had an exemplary power in organising, sincerity, attractive poetic language which captured people and moreover, a good friend and political leader to Gulf Malaysians by the demise of Thoppil Ravi", Rafeek Vadekkad (Geo Secretary of KICC) expressed his condolences in the condolence message passed in a meeting organised by Kuwait Indian Cultural Congress (KICC) for the death of Thoppil Ravi.

He was the light of the youths in Kerala as the general secretary of KPCC and as an MLA in the Kerala Legislative Assembly. Representatives of various cul-

tural and political organisations in Kuwait participated in the meeting held at Regal Hotel (Behind GPO).

Most of the representatives who participated found that, Ravi never judged things by political bias and by his demise socio-political arena of Kerala has a big gap which cannot be filled by normal politicians. They also expressed anxiety in such loss of sincere leaders from Congress party. "We have to exemplify him in our political career" they added.

Varghese Mathew presided over the function. Ameyan, Thankappan (KALA) Edava Nasir, P.M. Sudhakaran and K.T. Beerkanya expressed coo-

dolences representing various organisations in Kuwait. Joseph Thankachan welcomed the audience and Krishnan Kadalundi extended vote of thanks.

The picture shows the last public function attended by Thoppil Ravi. This was a meeting organised by "Veeishan Readers Forum" at Dubai on the Republic Day of India this year. Ravi is delivering the speech. The others are Mohan Oas (president - Dubai Unit), Bhavath Singh (UAE Central Committee president) and Subash Chandra Bose (Sbarjah Unit President).

After this visit, Ravi returned home and passed away on 8th February, '90 from a heart attack.



Farewell dinner

Shireen and Iqbal H. Zaidi hosted a farewell dinner at their residence to say good-bye to Said Akhar Afridi, First Secretary, Pakistan Embassy, on his transfer to Mozambique. Diplomats from Canada, Hungary, Japan, Lebanon, The Netherlands, Syria and Turkey attended the dinner.

Robbie 2002 at Kuwait International

What is a Robot doing in Kuwait?

DRAMATIC report has reached Kuwait. Rumour has it that Robbie 2002, a full metal, remote control, 1.2 metre tall robot is expected to arrive in Kuwait during the National day celebrations. A sophisticated mechanical and unusual contraption, Robbie 2002 was born and raised in England. Like a chameleon which changes colour to adapt to any situation, Robbie 2002 has been in completely different guises in numerous exhibitions and television appearances. With over 200 TV appearances to his credit, Robbie 2002 is a star. He has acted as Rocky Wool (a bale of cotton), Henry X, 'Kenny the Carrier Bag', Wiz Bit and Max Trax. He is also 'Dusty Bin', the world famous robot of 3.2.1, that was one of the most successful TV quiz shows in England regularly having over 17 million viewers worldwide. Robbie has appeared in many forms but for Kuwait, his spokesman says, "... Robbie will be dressed to kill!"

He is currently taking tap dancing lessons at the London Royal Ballet School which will be just one of the many talents. His hotel bookings are not yet confirmed but Robbie has shown a marked reference for the Kuwait International Hotel.

Robbie 2002 undergoes treatment

Whenever Robbie 2002, the high-tech metal robot has travelled it was always by sea. He was dismantled and huddled into the cargo hold. This way his electrical 'nerves' were numb and he never got sea sick. But Robbie has a mind of his own. This time he insists on coming in style as he comes for an important occasion. He has decided to travel by air and as a 'passenger'. His friends from Kuwait Airways have generously offered to fly him over several

thousand miles so that he is here on time for the 23rd, 24th and 25th February.

However, the question is... can his nerves take it? Latest reports from London say that Robbie is under intensive care at a Harley Street clinic. The situation is not alarming but worrying. His blood pressure is above normal and so is his heartbeat. Doctors say, "... it's all because of the excitement of travelling and performing for the National Day celebrations."

The team at the Kuwait International Hotel is making preparations to welcome this very important guest. Robbie has not indicated where he will stay, the Executive Floor or the Engineering Department. However, the hotel is ready for any situation that may arise out of having a robot as a guest. The only thing to his travel plan now seems to be his travel documents. Authorities in London have over issued a passport to robot hut with Robbie's mind ticking he is sure to find a way.

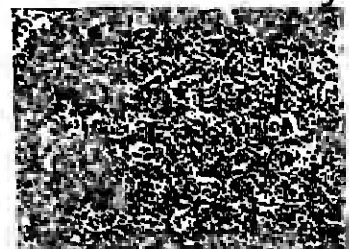
... And what does Robbie 2002 eat?

With Robbie's passport problem solved never before has the kitchen brigade at the Kuwait International Hotel ever been in such a quandary. What does Robbie 2002 eat? Chief Dorra has received special instructions from the Hi-Tech Research Institute of Great Britain on Robbie's diet. Once a day he eats springs, nuts and bolts topped with Kuwait Danish Dairy cream and a sprinkling of Kuwait International's strawberry sauce. Twice a day he drinks refined oil to smoothen his joints. Chief Dorra and chief engineer, Joe Carmouch are personally supervising his meal preparation so that he stays in fine health and high spirits for his audience at the Kuwait International.

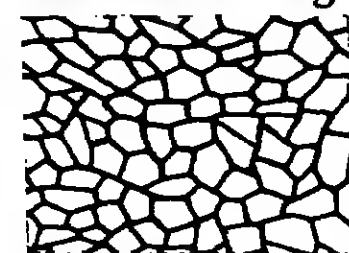
NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City Al Hajri Pharmacy, Al Hilali Street Al Baqami Pharmacy, Ahmed Al Jaber Street Hawalli and Al Nagra Al Haca Pharmacy, Bcirut	Street Al Salmiya and Al Rumeithiya Al Maidan Pharmacy, Baghdad Street Al Fahheel and Al Ahmadi Gulf Pharmacy, Polyclinic	Street Old Khaitan Al Shran Pharmacy, Block 2 Al Jahra Al Zahra Pharmacy, New Souk
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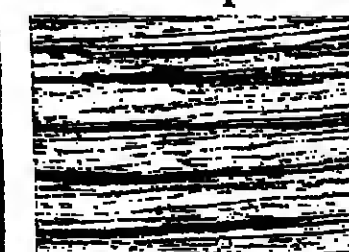
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ARTS

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah
14 Feb. Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoyne who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

Seminar
The seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am and evening sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2433259.

Hobby Centre
FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

SOCIAL

Flute recital
PRESENTED by a group of 4 young Austrian artists at the Kuwait International Hotel on 24th February at 8.00 pm. Winners of the first prize at the Youth Musicians' Festival in Austria, they have recorded for the radio and television in Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, USSR, Egypt and Austria. In the Terrace Room. Tel: 2530000 ext 8039/8040

Kuwait Welsh Society
ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dinner Thursday 1st March 1990 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

Flag at half-mast

ON the occasion of Shaheed Dibas (Martyrs' Day), the Bangladesh flag will be hoisted at half-mast at a solemn ceremony by the Ambassador at the Bangladesh Embassy premises, Khalidiya on Feb 21 at 9.00 am. All Bangladeshis are invited to attend the ceremony.

Shaheed Day
THE Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, will hold a cultural function on the occasion of "Shaheed Day" on Feb 24 at 6.30 pm at the Bangladesh embassy premises, Khalidiya. Mr. K. M. Shehabuddin, the ambassador, will be the chief guest.

All Bangladeshis are invited.

Oil and Gas Catalogue Show
THE Commercial Service of the American embassy announces an "Oil and Gas Catalogue Show" at the Kuwait Continental Hotel during Feb 19-20, 1990, between 8.30 am and 8.30 pm. Catalogues of more than 200 US companies in the Oil and Gas industry will be displayed. Interested firms are invited to attend.

For further information please contact, Ahdulla Mejalli, Tel: 2424151 ext 267, Fax: 2407368.

Children's variety show
RANGDHANU, a children's variety show which includes a play, will be staged on March 1, Thursday at the Theatre Hall of Kuwait University Law Faculty, Shuwaikh campus, at 6.30 pm. For cards contact 4840759, 4312730, 4312280, 4733106 or 3729425.

Craft Centre
MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

Bliss 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel: 5634663.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

ACOI seven-a-side

ACOI overseas is pleased to announce their first one day football tournament which will be held on the March 2, 1990, at the Sour Grounds.

For further information contact, Casimiro D'Souza or Meoio Leitao at the Sour Grounds.

Handicrafts exhibition

UNDER the auspices of the Minister of Interior, Sheikh Salim Al Sabah, an exhibition of handicrafts for young Kuwaiti boys and girls will be opening on February 24 until February 28 at the Kuwait Regency Palace. For more information contact Salwa Al Harbi on 4835398.

Ladies International League

LIL newcomers: A coffee morning will be held on Feb 26 at the Sheraton Hotel from 10 am to 12 noon. New comers to LIL and Kuwait will be most welcome. For further information please call Ann on 5316905.

Carnival Dinner Nite

Carnival dinner nite by the Entertainers will be held at the SAS Hotel (The Teot) with music provided by Top Ranks & Perfect Strangers, on 22nd Feb, 1990 from 20.30 hours onwards. Highlights of the evening: Parade by K-Momo, Crowning of Carnival Queen, Ramba Samba dance competition. Group prizes, and many other surprises. For further details please contact: The Organisers, Chopsticks Chinese take-away. Tel: 5617243.

Tivim Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers - 2441860 Casimiro."

French Film Festival

WHEN VERSAILLES TALKS: Director Sacha Guitry weaves his story around the period of Louis XIV, in three main sequence the film unveils.

First, at one table Robespierre, Louis XIV, La Fayette, and Maria Antoinette meet to discuss reforms to absorb public rage in 1789.

Second, were the march of women to Versailles is depicted.

Three, the film witness the auctioning of the properties of the dethroning disposses. It is a 1953 production and stars Jeanne Fusier-Gir and Jean Pierre Aumont. The film will be screened at the Chamber of Commerce at 7.30, today.



Exhibition of Graphic Art

Under the patronage of the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Angel Mantchev, the Boushara Gallery will present an exhibition of Graphic Art by Stoyan Stoyanov starting Sunday, February 18, 1990 at 8.00 pm. The Gallery will be open (on the following days) from 9.00 am to 12.30 noon and 4.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Alshall stock price indices

Trade volume surges as market picks up

THE Alshall index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday, Feb 14, 1990 an average of 38.87 points with a decrease of 0.08 point — 0.21 per cent — from last week's average of Wednesday, Feb 7, 1990. The Alshall index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 67.32 points with an increase of 0.28 points — 0.42 per cent — for the same period, according to Al Shall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 14.28 million shares at a daily average of 2.86 million shares with an increase of 131 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 1.24 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 3.160 million shares at a daily average of 0.632 million shares with an increase of 2 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.621 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD4.37 million at a daily average of KD0.87 million, an increase of 123 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.39 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.144 million at a daily average of KD0.029 million, an increase of 53 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.019 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 40 per cent of total trading against 47 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 36 per cent, followed by The Gulf Bank at 18 per cent and Kuwait Finance House at 11 per cent.

The real estate sector came second at 31 per cent in which, United Realty Company had the lead at 99.5 per cent followed by Kuwait Real Estate Company at 0.5 per cent. The investment sector came third at 20 per cent, Kuwait Investment Projects Company had the lead at 65 per cent followed by Coast Investment and Development Company at 24 per cent, and International Financial Advisers Company at 6 per cent. As for the Non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank had the lead at 33 per cent followed by Bahrain Middle East Bank at 28 per cent Umm Al Quain Cement Company at 23 per cent.

The market was weak in general but gave signs of increase in activity compared to last week. This was reflected on five of the six indices in both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti markets and came after a long period of weakness.

The present trend is usual and often happens after a long period of sluggish activity. We believe that the reason behind the relative increase in activity is the general belief that a certain political solution has been reached locally, however this reason cannot be confirmed yet because of the short period and the complexity of political matters.

Listed companies continue to declare dividend distributions for 1989. Four Kuwaiti companies declared dividends last week of which two declared cash dividends while the other two declared both cash and stock dividends. This led to a total of 20 companies which have declared dividends in the Kuwaiti share market which constitutes 45.5 per cent of total listed companies of which 60 per cent declared cash dividends only and 40 per cent declared both cash and stock dividends.

The percentage of companies that are distributing stock dividends is increasing and as we have stated before, we believe this is an encouraging sign.

Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

Wed. 14/02/90	Wed. 07/02/90	Change points
121.52	121.52	—

The Gulf Bk	29.70	29.70	—
The Comm. Bk	23.71	23.27	0.44
Al Ahli Bk	30.28	32.80	-2.52
Bk of Kt & ME	31.44	30.50	0.94
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	28.71	28.71	—
Burgan Bk	25.81	26.01	-0.21
Kt Finance House	76.62	75.80	0.82
Sector Index	47.54	47.65	-0.11

Inv. Sector	9.18	9.55	-0.37
Kuwait Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	—
Kt. Inv. Co.	25.74	28.31	-2.57
IFA	143.00	151.25	-8.25
Comm. Facilities	57.84	57.84	—
National Inv.	92.13	89.89	2.25
Kt. Inv. Proj.	92.94	91.76	1.18
Coast Inv. & Dev.	32.04	32.65	-0.61

Sector Index	35.88	35.88	—
Kt. Ins. Co.	23.08	23.08	—
Gulf Ins. Co.	50.84	50.84	—
Al Ahlia Ins.	50.69	50.69	—
Warba Ins. Co.	35.74	35.40	—

Sector Index	14.02	15.04	-1.02
Kt. Real Est.	5.41	5.04	0.37
Utd. Realty	39.42	39.42	—
Nat. Real Est.	63.49	63.49	—
Pearl of Kt.	15.88	15.88	-0.08

Sector Index	11.45	11.45	—
Kt. Cmt. Co.	84.55	84.55	—
Ref. Ind.	116.52	116.52	—
Gulf Cables	60.44	60.44	—
Kt. Pharm.	30.24	30.24	—

Sector Index	151.20	151.20	—
Kt. Cmptr. Co.	7.61	7.61	—
Kt. Cinema Co.	58.59	56.57	2.02
Pub. W'housing Co.	35.91	35.45	0.46
Kt. Comm. M.Co.	338.10	328.57	9.52
M. Tele. Syst.	57.42	55.98	1.44

Sector Index	29.29	29.29	—
Food Sector	11.05	11.05	—
L. Trad. & Transp.	110.01	110.01	—
Utd Fisheries	74.71	74.71	—
Kt. Utd Poultry	39.88	39.88	—
Kt. Food Co.	38.87	38.87	-0.08

Sector Index	1402/90	07/02/90	Change points
Overall Index	236.84	236.84	—

First G. Bk.	91.03	89.66	-1.38
Bah. Int. Bk.	93.02	94.92	-1.90
Bah. M.E. Bk.	43.94	43.18	0.76
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua)	17.62	17.62	—
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	13.13	13.13	—
G. Med. Proj.	67.32	67.04	0.28

—Base period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

IDC fits new products to new markets

Two-fold strategy

IN July 1988 Loctite, the world famous international specialty adhesives company, responded to the growing requirements of the Middle East and African markets by deciding to spin off its international operations in these markets to a new company formed to meet specifically the needs of this market.

Its International Distribution Centre (IDC) was launched with the same management headed by managing director, Clive Godfrey, as an independent company armed with a two fold strategy: to further expand the growing business potential of the Middle East, Africa and Indian sub-continent but also to invite complementary manufacturers to make use of the distribution channels created by Loctite's International Distribution Centre, and benefit from the expertise, experience and contacts built up over the years by the original IDC team.

IDC Ltd. is first and foremost an international distributor of specialist products. Its aim is to help companies develop their business effectively overseas through an intimate understanding of market and product. IDC will guide companies through the maze of language problems, complexities of shipping, insurance and payment which so often dissuade the potential exporter.

Starting from scratch and alone can be unduly expensive. IDC Ltd. offers a cost effective solution by opening up its established network of distributors and end users in the original equipment markets, maintenance markets, consumer channels, (food, hardware and stationery) and automotive



Brian Bell



Clive Godfrey



Keith Redway

maintenance and car care products.

One of the cornerstones of IDC Ltd. is the belief that the high cost of getting to market can be amortised over a range of products making the export function viable.

The one year old company is a spin-off of Loctite's International Distribution Centre. It operates as an entirely separate operation focusing on Loctite's businesses but also covers markets in specialty chemicals and lubricants produced by other US and European companies which complement the Loctite product range. The company operates from new offices and warehouses at 4, Sutherland Court, Brownfields, Welwyn Garden City, UK, and has a Gulf regional office in Dubai, PO Box 7676, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Until 1988, an international business centre had been run from Welwyn Garden City in the UK dealing with the marketing of Loctite products through its European subsidiaries and through distributors in the Mid-

dle East, Africa and the Indian sub-continent.

IDC Ltd. also offers a specialised service of consultancy and test marketing to clients who may not wish to use IDC as their distributors base, but would like a well established company to advise them on the market opportunities available and the most effective way of marketing their products overseas.

Since its launch the company has taken on the sole distributor rights for Hylomar industrial and automotive gasketing products, and Carlon Brown high temperature industrial adhesives and cements.

Moreover, the company has added to its already extensive specialty line, hot melts, silicone fluids, a specialty line of industrial lubricants.

IDC Ltd. has three product portfolios with specialist salesmen and distributors for each of the distribution channels. In the industrial portfolio, IDC sells specialist chemicals and adhesives and silicones as well as specialty lubricants and fasten-

ers.

In the consumer portfolio IDC sells the Loctite and Duro brands of consumer adhesives, sealants and fixing products as well as adhesive tapes and specialist chemical cleaning products. In the automotive aftermarket field, IDC sells the Loctite after-market product line for the garage and professional mechanic, the Permatex maintenance line from the US and other specialty lubricants and chemicals for the professional fleet and home motorist.

IDC Ltd. is headed up by managing director Clive Godfrey who has 20 years experience of marketing and selling a wide variety of products in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Indian sub-continent. Godfrey was joined at the launch by Keith Redway, previously the industrial sales manager for Loctite operating in the Middle East and Brian Bell, Gulf regional manager, who also joined from Loctite where he had been operating in the Middle East for several years.

\$9.8 billion foreign relations bill signed

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, Feb 17, (UPI): President Bush, in signing a \$9.8 billion foreign relations bill yesterday, reinforced a series of economic sanctions against China and renewed his battle with Congress over his power to conduct foreign policy.

In doing so, Bush indicated he may conduct more secret diplomatic missions, like he did last year when he sent National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and Lawrence Eagleburger, assistant secretary of state, to China following the crackdown against pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing.

A vacationing Bush said in a statement from his seaside home that he has constitutional concerns about a provision in the new funding measure that would require the secretary of state to inform Congress of certain diplomatic contacts.

"Such blanket reporting requirements could be read to compel the disclosure of contents of sensitive ongoing negotiations and may, therefore, compromise my constitutional authority over such negotiations," Bush said.

"In reporting to Congress, therefore," he said, "I shall construe these provisions in light of my constitutional duties."

The constitution states that the president conducts foreign policy with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The funding bill provides \$9.8 billion in fiscal years 1990 and 1991 for the State Department, the United States Information Agency and the Inter-American Foundation.

However, this included \$700 per capita spent on defence — adding little to the material well-being of the people.

The lag behind Western Europe will not easily be overcome, the UBS to 4 points out. While Eastern Europe may not be poor in comparison with Africa or South Asia, it lags well behind the more advanced developing countries in Asia and even the poor countries and regions of Western Europe.

Besides, just getting the rules right in Eastern Europe will not be enough to assure success. To avoid the low-growth traps of southern Italy or British hilllands, it will have to develop the "entrepreneurial dynamics" found in high-growth areas of Western Europe.

Weak East-West economic ties also limit Western gains from improved relations. Trade between Eastern and Western Europe in 1988 came to about \$90 billion, only 4 per cent of all Western European trade.

Thus, trade relations within the European Economic Community (EEC) and between community and the Efta (European Free Trade Association) members will continue to dominate the Western European economic picture for some time.

Even so, Eastern exports of the few products available may prove disruptive to some markets in the West — raw materials, basic industrial products and low priced consumer goods.



Austral plunges

Argentine currency dealers follow the morning trade in Buenos Aires as the Argentine austral plunged 14.5 per cent after three hours of heavy trade on Friday.

Dhaka meeting calls for assistance

LDCs adopt action plan for the 1990s

DHAKA, Feb 17: A three-day ministerial level meeting of the least developed countries (LDCs) ended in Dhaka last week with a call for adequate financial and technical assistance and transfer of technology.

The meeting, which was attended by 30 of the 42 LDCs of which 20 were at ministerial level, adopted the Dhaka Declaration and The Dhaka Document, spelling out a plan of action for LDCs for 1990s.

Conveying a political message to the international community, the Dhaka Declaration emphasised the need for effective policies and measures at all levels, particularly at the international level on the problems and issues confronting the LDCs. It also emphasised the transformational needs of LDCs, poverty eradication and the need for an environment supportive of sustainable development. It underscored the exceptional severity of the external debt problem faced by the least developed countries.

The declaration strongly reaffirmed that the LDCs themselves have the primary responsibility for their socio-economic development. The declaration underlined the fact that due to weaknesses and formidable structural handicaps of the LDCs, no amount of domestic efforts would yield the required rate of growth in their countries, if these are not complemented by adequate external resources and support.

The declaration expressed the hope that the second UN conference on LDCs, to be held in Paris in September this year, will adopt an effective plan of action for the LDCs for the 1990s. It called for sustained, co-ordinated effective follow-up and monitoring of the plan of action for the 1990s at national and global levels.

The Dhaka documents contain an assessment of progress in the socio-economic situation of the LDCs during the 1980s in the light of the ongoing national and international support measures, the aid modalities and aid effectiveness, debt problems, debt relief measures and transfer of technology.

The declaration and the document present a com-

mon platform of the LDCs for the Paris conference and its preparatory process.

The LDCs meeting also adopted the following decisions: (a) A mission consisting of four ministers from LDCs will visit donor capitals after April to sensitize the donor community; (b) A centre for research on LDCs will be set up for monitoring the needs and problems of LDCs; (c) Consultations and exchange of views at ministerial level on issues of concern to LDCs and monitoring and follow-up of the plan of action for the LDCs will be held during regular UNGA sessions at New York.

Earlier this month, a meeting of the non-aligned Group of 77 was held in Dhaka. Addressing this meeting, Bangladesh President Hussain Muhammad Ershad urged industrialised countries to reduce crushing Third World debt and draw the developing world into the economic mainstream and out of a "decade of despair."

Ershad warned that half a billion people in the least developed countries, including Bangladesh, remain "on the margin of existence" and need international support.

"The restoration of growth in the LDCs will require substantial increase in development assistance," he said.

For the underdeveloped countries, Ershad said, the 1980s were a decade of socio-economic stagnation.

"What was to be a decade of development became a decade of despair," he said. Average per capita income declined for most of the decade, and unemployment and illiteracy rose, he said.

Ershad said overseas development assistance (ODA) must move towards an agreed target of 0.15 per cent of the donors' gross national product, or alternatively doubling aid for the least developed countries.

"Donors should consider doubling the present level of ODA in the next five years," Ershad said. In the long term they should aim at revising the target to 0.20 per cent of their GNP to least developed nations, he added.

Klibi urges joint Arab arms industry

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Feb 17, (AP): Chedli Klibi, the secretary-general of the 22-member Arab League, urged today the development of a joint Arab arms industry to help confront Israel.

"The fundamental factors for such developed joint arms industry are available, including human, financial and raw material potentials," Klibi said in a speech to a military seminar.

More than 50 high-ranking military officers from 17 Arab states are participating in the week-long seminar hosted by the United Arab Emirates.

UAE Defence Minister, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, inaugurated the conference by stressing the need for Arab security.

"With the exception of Egypt, which concluded a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, the League members are theoretically in a state of war with the Jewish state until the Palestinian problem is settled."

"Among the League members, Egypt has forged ahead with a military industries base, while Iraq has recently claimed the local manufacture of surface-to-surface missiles."

Oil prices dip

NEW YORK, Feb 17, (UPI): Prices on world oil markets dropped yesterday in what was seen as a correction of a rally Thursday triggered by erroneous rumours that an earthquake had damaged the Alaska pipeline carrying more than a quarter of US oil output.

For the week, however, prices moved up on the uncertainty created by the bankruptcy of Drexel Burnham Lambert, a major oil market player, and an oil industry report that US gasoline stocks grew a surprising 7 million gallons (25 million L) last week. Colder weather in Europe also played a role.

"It turned out yesterday's (earthquake) did not cause any danger to the pipeline," said Peter Beutel of Elders Futures Inc. in New York.

The federal earthquake centre in Anchorage said Thursday a moderate earthquake with a magnitude of 4.5 on the Richter scale hit 20 miles (32 km) west of Valdez. A spokesman for the Alaska pipeline said the pipeline had not been damaged or shut down.

Friday's market was "a correction," said Michael McDermott of New York's Paine Webber Inc. "Yesterday's rally was a false move. We tried to follow that early today before the market moved down."

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, the benchmark West Texas intermediate crude for March delivery dropped 42 cents to \$22.42 a barrel but finished the week 68 cents higher.

WTI was bid at \$22.40 a barrel on the US Gulf coast cash market, down 40 cents on the day but up 65 cents on the week.

The final day for trading the March contract on the Merc is Tuesday, when April becomes the spot month futures contract. April finished the day at \$22.25 a barrel, down 18 cents. The Merc will be closed Monday for President's Day.

McDermott did not anticipate any rally on the final day of trading the spot month contract as has been the case in the last several months.

He said in recent months the high margin between the prices

of refined products and crude has encouraged refiners to buy at the end of a delivery contract.

That's not going to happen this month," the analyst said.

There will be increasing pressure to lower crude prices with the approach of March and falling demand as refiners perform their seasonal turnaround maintenance to maximize the refining of gasoline over heating oil.

"I see extensive turnarounds in March with losses (in crude demand) of about 1 million barrels a day spread across the United States," McDermott said.

"I don't see good news in heating oil, I don't see good news in gasoline and I don't see good news in crude oil," he said. "The market is telling me it's going to go lower."

March heating oil dropped 1.25 cents to \$7.40 cents a gallon on the Merc, still 2.32 cents higher than the previous Friday. It fell 1.4 cents to \$7.65 cents a gallon on the New York harbour cash market, 2.65 cents higher than a week ago.

E. Europe presents attractive market for Western producers

ZURICH, Feb 17, (Kuna): As the economies of Eastern Europe open up and attempt basic changes in the economic rules, it may be a long way to prosperity, according to a quarterly publication by the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS).

In addition to fundamental changes in economic rules, a massive re-investment in education and physical planning is necessary. But until new rules are firmly fixed and broadly accepted, investment in Eastern Europe will remain "a high-risk proposition and trade will remain depressed," the publication said.

The experience so far suggests that "half-solutions", which unfortunately most reformers continue to suggest, do not work. Free prices without competitive markets and clearly defined rights and obligations tend to produce inflation rather than higher productivity.

Notions like creating socialism with a human face, or of adopting some form of market socialism abound. Less attention is being paid to actually replacing socialist management with greater individual responsibility. This suggests a long period of economic muddling along with Eastern Europe, at best, no more successful than the more backward parts of Western Europe.

At the same time, the diversity of reform movements among different countries and within the Soviet Union itself, provides room

for hope. For, if some reforms are seen to succeed, others will follow to bring a better outcome across the board.

Despite its economic potential and the dramatic political changes now taking place, the influence of events in Eastern Europe on the Western economy is likely to remain small in the near term, the UBS report says.

"Though the situation differs from country to country, Eastern Europe as a whole is simply too poor and disorganised for developments in the East to influence overall economic activity in the West." While its population, including the Soviet Union, exceeds that of Western Europe by nearly 20 per cent, combined national output — and income — is less than half as large.

Despite a large and relatively well educated workforce and a solid natural resource base, Eastern Europe's 425 million people produce a little less than 122 million Japanese. "Natural resources are wasted, labour is unproductive, and management effort is misdirected," the UBS report points out.

Eastern Europe presents an attractive market for Western producers. Shortages of almost everything and the poor quality of goods available suggest tremendous opportunities to many Western entrepreneurs. But lack of purchasing power by Eastern Europe to pay for the broad range of goods and services demanded is a

problem.

Russia dominates the East with an economy more than twice the size of the rest of Eastern Europe combined. Even so, Russia's \$1,500 billion gross national product (GNP) is only about half that of Japan's.

Poland, the next largest Eastern country, is not quite the economic size of the Netherlands, while Hungary compares with Greece or Portugal.

For most Western firms, integration within the \$3,800 billion European Economic Community still presents possible gains or losses — that loom much more important than possible profits even in the Soviet Union.

With relations between Eastern countries already poor and moving apart, closer ties to one or two of the smaller countries is not likely to assure access to the combined market in any event, the report contends.

Most of Eastern Europe's output is devoted to meeting the minimal needs of its people. The highest per capita income, in East Germany, is only about in line with that in Spain, Ireland or southern Italy.

Incomes in Poland, Yugoslavia or Romania were only about on par with Turkey in 1987 (the year of the bank's benchmark estimates), and have likely fallen behind since.

Russia's per capita income in 1987 was just about the average for other East European

What recession? stock prices

“Overindebtedness has reduced, or ended, business at a number of retail firms. Construction companies are building fewer houses because they cannot obtain financing.

43	Reckitt	206.25	206.25	212
97	Reliance	59.50	62	59
40.50	Sesa Goa	84.25	85	
111	Shaw Wall	—	—	
47	Shree Cern	—	—	
172.50	Shri Fib	55	53	
81.50	Siemens	104	104	
16	SKF	1310	1320	
18	Spr			

GNFC	40	40	40.50	Reliance	59.50	62	59.50
Grasim	113.50	114	111	Sesa Goa	84.25	85	83
GE Ship	47.50	47.75	47	Shaw Wall	—	—	—
CSFC	171.25	170	172.50	Shree Cam	—	—	—
Guj Ald	80.50	80	81.50	Shri Fib	55	53	55
Guj Heavy	15.50	15	16	Siemens	104	104	105
Hero Honda	18	16	18	SIF	1310	1320	1310
Hind Ciba	1220	1230	1205	Spic	55 50	55 75	55 50

up from \$412.40. Zurich gold rose to \$417.50 and ounce from \$417, while London gold rose to \$417.75 an ounce from \$415.75.

Such evidence of economic weakness has increased the chance the Fed will cut interest rates and further un-

	Pr. Close	Open	Close			
ACC	340	351	345	Hindalco	222.50	225
Adani Chem	—	—	—	Hoechst	1595	1620
Alw Niss	—	—	—	ITC	215	210
Ari Fab	—	—	—	Indt Org	54.50	55.50
Ashtok Ley	82	81.50	81.50	Ind Rayon	89	90
Atlas Cop	212.50	215	215	Indrol	193.75	193.75
Auto Corp	50	52.50	50	J&K Sug	53	52.50
Nat Index	382.94	384.94	384.94	Kim Eng	146	147
Bajaj Auto	398.75	397.50	397.50	Kir Camm	72.50	74
Bar Rayon	712.50	715	705	KSP Pumps	201.25	197.50
Blow Plast	—	—	—	L & T	65	65
Bom Dye	192	189.50	189	L&T	92.50	93
8K Bond	96	96	99	Mac Russel	162.50	160
Burr Wei	83.75	80	85	Mad Cotes	108	108
Canstare	—	—	—	Mahindra	73.75	72.50
Cen Enka	3175	3200	3150	Mata Son	17.25	17.50
Cen Spg	3485	2500	2510	Mico	870	865
Colgate	183.75	185	183.75	Milkfood	225	217.50
Crompt Gr	1970	950	950	Modi	55	55
DCM	—	13	14	MRF Ltd	242.50	242
Deep Fert	32	32.50	32.75	Mus Son	135	136
Dunlop	60	58	61	Nocel	1330	1300
El Hotels	62.50	61	62.50	Nai Org	—	—
Electra	80.50	81	81.50	Nippon	42	42
BSE Index	690.77	689.98	689.98	Orkay	16.25	16.25
Eskayev	128.75	128.75	128.75	Oswal Agro	46	47
Ester Spg	28.75	30.75	29.75	Pfizer	86.5	87
Food Spl	105.50	105	106.25	Ponds	202.50	203.75
Forbes	49	48	49	Prem Auto	65	65.50
Gar Poly	40	44.50	43	Ranbaxy	92.50	90
Glimdia	96	98	97	Reliant	74	74.50
GNFC	40	40	40.50	Rockit	206	206.50
Graham	113.50	114	111	Reckitt	59.50	62
Grig Ganga	47.50	47.75	47	Sesa Goa	84.25	83
GSFC	117.25	80	81	Shaw Wall	—	—
Guj Aild	80.50	70	72.50	Shree Cam	—	—
Guj Heavy	15.50	15	16	Sht Fibs	55	53
Hind Clona	120	116	118	Siemens	104	104
Hind Ciba	128	1230	1204	SKF	1310	1320
Indo Nat	—	—	—	Spic	55	55

Beware!... this teenage girl is deadly

MOTHER Karen Moore is always worried when her two young children are out by themselves. For if anybody molests them, their attacker could end up by being seriously injured.

For Karen's whole family — 32-year-old Tony, Sandra, aged 13, and Steven, eight — are all experts at the 2,000-year-old martial art of Thai boxing. They are all as deadly with their feet as with their fists.

In fact, father Tooy is the world champion and has been offered a part in a film to be made by the tycoons who rocketed the late Kung-Fu ace Bruce Lee to fame.

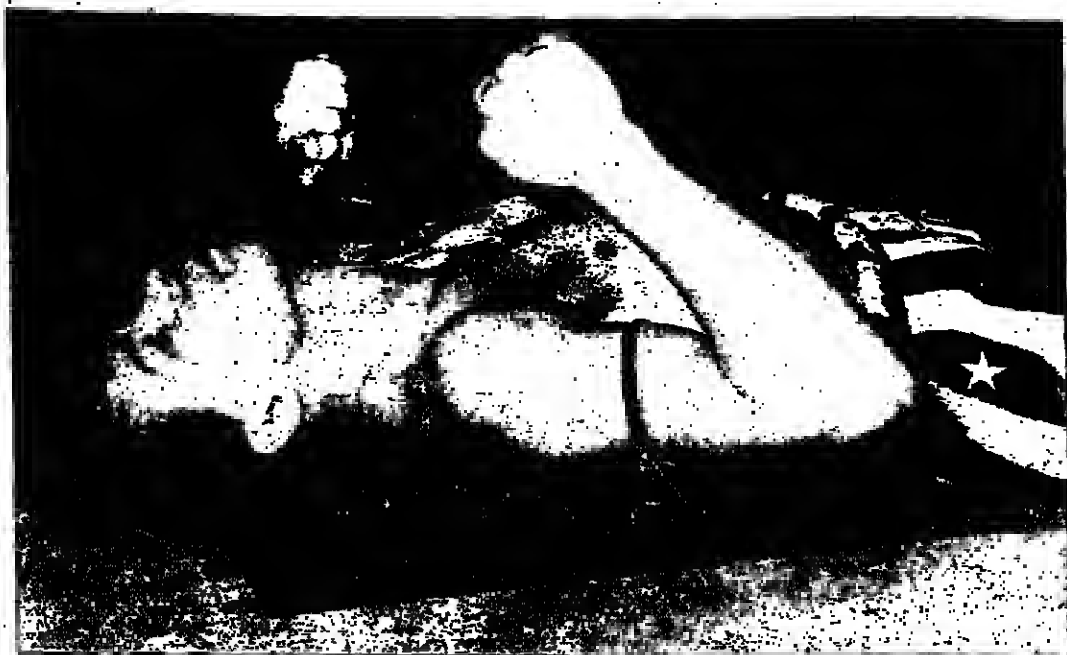
But every member of Tony's family packs a staggering punch. And this came in useful more than once for teenager Sandra, already a Thai boxing teacher and women's champion for North-West England.

She told me: "Once I was walking home with a few friends when we were attacked by three big lads, all much older than us. My friends ran off. But I threw one lad over a hedge, kicked one in the stomach — and the other one ran away."

"Another time, I was in the park on my own when I saw an old man being picked on by some lads. They were pushing him about and kicking his dog. I went over and told them to leave him alone. They turned round and one of them punched me. He was moving to punch me again but I kicked him in the stomach. They just stood there, and looked pretty amazed, and the old man was able to walk away."

And slightly-built fair-haired Steven could see a playground off at the speed of one of his highly-trained kicks. When Tony recently took his fighting family on a trip to Thailand, boxing experts then wanted the boy to stay on so they could turn him into a champion.

But Karen thought Steven should stay a little longer at his home in Manchester before climbing into the world arena. Meanwhile, he trains at the local Thai boxing club, of which 32-year-old Karen is secretary. And she



Tony lying on broken glass

doesn't just push a pen... mother, too, packs a world-class punch.

Karen said: "More and more women are turning to Thai boxing as a form of self defence. It's all about evading attack, and then, if necessary, countering it. I certainly worry less about my children being out on the streets because I know they can defend themselves."

"It is also good discipline for children. As Thai boxing is a dangerous sport, you have to listen to the teacher carefully. There can't be any messing around. It teaches kids very simply what is right and what is wrong."

And Tony, lithe and muscular, added: "My sport often sorts out the toughies who get drunk on a Saturday night and think they can fight. When they come to the sports centre and club, you see that they really can't punch properly. And most of them are too scared to go into that ring for a one-to-one fight, where they have to keep to a set of rules."

Tony had his chance to become a movie star when talent scouts from the Golden Harvest

film company spotted him triumphing at the world championships in Hong Kong. They have promised that, if he impresses moviegoers in the film, where he plays an American airman, he will be offered a major role in their next production.

Dark-haired Tony said: "I was really surprised by the film men's offer — especially as it was the company which first made martial arts popular with the film Enter the Dragon. I've had no acting experience, but they still wanted to take me on."

But Tony hasn't found it easy to punch and kick his way to stardom. Karen said: "He's incredibly dedicated, always training and working hard at the sport. I'm proud of him — and the children, too. Although Thai boxing is a dangerous sport, I never feel worried about what they're doing."

But Tony is never satisfied at the standard his battling family achieve. At the sport, known as the King of the Martial Arts. That is why he goes to Thailand with them once a year to learn from the masters. And some of their tricks are amazing.

He told me: "They use the power of mind over matter to walk through fire, and to stride over and lie on broken glass. It's incredible to watch."

Then Tooy showed me one of the skills he had learnt from a Thai boxing master. He broke up some bottles and spread the jagged pieces on the floor. Tony then lay on the glass.

He explained calmly: "The last time I did this, a student rested a concrete breeze block on my stomach, and then broke it with a sledge-hammer. That shows the strength of the stomach muscles."

After a few minutes, Tony sat up. His back was barely marked by the glass. He said: "If I didn't concentrate, my back would probably be cut to pieces."

"The best thing about Thai boxing is that you never stop learning. There is always some new technique or idea to find out. And not a day goes by for me without training or teaching."

"Although Thai boxing is a dangerous sport, I've never seen anyone seriously injured. You are on the attack all the time. But

in football, for example, you can be taken unawares and seriously hurt."

"It is amazing to see Thai people change as they go into the ring to box. When they go in, they become aggressive and have that killer instinct. But as soon as the fight is over, they're smiling and friendly."

As for me, I'm aggressive in the ring — but placid outside it. Tony went on: "I'm constantly amazed by the power someone can generate from the body — and which is channelled by Thai boxing. At its best, it's a form of meditation. It's superb to watch people testing each other's skill in this way."

Tooy began to take the sport really seriously when he gave up his job as building labourer 5-1/2 years ago to open a Fighters and Fitness Centre, just a few streets away from his terrace home. He was able, with the help of grants, to convert a ramshackle, disused building into a training centre.

Here Tooy teaches the fine points of the martial art. For example, before a fight begins, a Thai boxer has to perform a ceremonial dance.

Fighters will wear a mongkoo, a sacred band, which has monks' prayer inscribed.

The traditions stem from the days when Thai boxers would fight to the death. This is now against the law, but Tooy believes it still goes on in remote areas.

He explained: "But the ritual is very important, as it helps to prepare you mentally for the fight."

When he takes his family to Thailand, Sharon is not allowed to train in some centres because she is a girl. But little Steven is always welcome because of his male talent.

But, if he ever goes there for star grooming, he must expect to lead a tough life. Training begins at dawn, and the young fighters are kept hard at work until far into the night. They must have 100 per cent commitment, and mustn't even have a girlfriend.

Steven said: "I sometimes think I'd rather be a footballer."



Little Sandra practicing her trade

Country Music

In a musical no-man's land

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (UPI): Curtis Wright finds himself in a musical no-mao's land.

The Pennsylvania native has had a top 30 single and some momentum. But Airborne Records is apparently so short of money it can't release his next single or his already prepared album.

Naturally, the country singer-songwriter is a frustrated man.

"I think they (Airborne officials in Nashville) are telling me as much as they know. I realise it is my business but I realise that sometimes you have to keep things to yourself until you got them figured out," Wright said.

"I am concerned that the album hasn't been put out. All I can do is hope that they get whatever problems they have worked out. Or else I'm going to have to go somewhere else. I've got to."

Wright, who co-wrote *A Woman in Love* which was a big hit for Ronnie Millsap, said he hopes the success of his single, *She's got a man on her mind*, will attract a major label to him.

"I'm certainly interested in talking with a major label to come up with some kind of plan. If somebody will take a chance, I think I'll prove I'm well worth it. We've got the songs cut and it's just a matter of Airborne is going to be able to move them or not."

"I've got a little momentum and I'd hate to lose it. I think I would be an attractive package. I don't understand why it hasn't happened. I can't let it kill me."

Wright said when he signed with Airborne he "assumed" they had the money to put out the product.

"I guess it bothered me that they signed somebody and created a product knowing that you couldn't go any further with it. It's beyond me. I didn't know that at the time."

"If Airborne could get everything straightened out and get back to the swing, I would not mind staying here a bit. I have control. I like the people I'm

working with. I feel for them. They deserve to have a shot. If someone came in here and bought the company, I wouldn't be interested in staying."

"I am a man without a company, dead in the water. I've got some songs about real life out there that people will say, 'yeah, I feel like that.'"

Wright began turning on to music at the age of nine when his dad gave him a Sears Silvertone guitar which he still owns. His father never encouraged or discouraged him from going into music.

He entered an entertainment contest when he was 15 or 16 and came in second to a nine-year-old girl who sang "Almost persuaded."

"It humbled me a little bit," laughed Wright. "I thought I had a chance at walking away with it. I guess it showed me that even though you might be the most talented, there might be something more involved than talent."

Wright said he was influenced by Buck Owens, Glen Campbell, the Eagles and other West Coast groups more than he was by Elvis Presley or the Beatles.

After graduating from high school, he got a job at a fiberglass plant in his hometown where his father worked and stayed there for three years.

Finally he told his dad he couldn't do it any more.

"I told him I didn't want to get locked into that syndrome where you find a girl, get married, buy a house, a boat and a car and that's the rest of your life. I told him that I had found a guy who would pay me 150 to play three nights a week. I said I was going to take it."

"He said, 'son, I don't blame you. You're young enough where you can experiment. There is nothing for a young man in our town.'"

Wright hit the road and got jobs with several bands including the super Grit Cowboy Band.

However, by 1987 Wright decided if he was ever going to make it in country music, he had to try it out in Nashville.

Housing the rich

Real estate costs soar as high as the stars

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Thanks in part to the likes of Frank Sinatra and Zsa Zsa Gabor, who seem to sell their houses when the closest get full, real estate here soars as high as the stars.

The average habitable house north of Santa Monica boulevard in Beverly Hills, for example, is about \$4 million.

Tear-down houses go for \$1.5 million — the older, smaller houses that are bulldozed for far grander things on lots that are often only 70 feet by 180 feet (21 by 55 ft).

Of 200 houses built in Beverly Hills in the past two years, all but five replaced a tear-down.

If the low end of available houses is \$7 million in this enclave of the rich and infamous, the high end is out of sight. Some homes in Bel Air and Holmby Hills go for as much as \$25 million. There is producer Aaron Spelling's \$4,000 square-foot (48,600 sq. m.) mansion, still under construction, which has a price tag estimated at about \$30 million.

The man doing the estimating is realtor Mike Silverman, who is as much a celebrity around town as any of the stars.

Silverman has been buying and selling homes to the big- and small-screen elite for more than 30 years.

Several years ago he sold Frank Sinatra a house atop a peak in the Santa Monica mountains overlooking Beverly Hills. Sinatra grew tired of it, so Silverman sold it — sight-unseen — to a multimillionaire and his new bride.

After that marriage broke up, Silverman sold it back to Sinatra who kept it several years before selling it again.



Frank Sinatra



Gloria

"When Frank married Mia Farrow, he asked me to find him a house," Silverman recalls. "I drove him around Bel Air and told him to pick one out. He pointed to a home he liked, but it wasn't for sale."

"I took him back to his office and returned to the house and had tea with the woman who owned it. A few days later Frank bought the house."

The frequency of marriage and divorce helps keep the market lively. So does the restlessness of celebrities who are compelled to buy upscale. If it isn't celebrities,

then it's foreigners who want to live in a star's ex-home.

"Sometimes celebrities buy other celebrities' homes," Silverman said. "That was the case with the Bel Air mansion that is owned now by Marvin Davis. I originally sold it to Dico de Laurentis. Keooy Rogers bought it for \$14 million and then sold it to Marvin Davis for over \$20 million."

Silverman also makes his home in Beverly Hills, along with a weekend getaway on the beach at Malibu, surrounded by the likes of Charles Bronson and Jill Ireland. Larry Hagman, Burgess Meredith, Dennis Weaver and others.

Malibu, he says, is in a price-tag class by itself. A lot with 5-foot (1.1 m.) frontage goes for more than \$1 million if it's on the sand, even if the house is a shack.

"Pia Zadora has a house at the beach on a 30-foot (10 m.) lot and she has it up for sale at \$4.5 million," Silverman said.

"Real estate keeps going up and up. I sold (producer) Bob Evans his house for \$300,000 off Coldwater Canyon many years ago. He recently turned down the opportunity to sell it for \$6 million."

"Tony Curtis paid \$300,000 for an estate off Sunset Boulevard and I sold it for Sonny and Cher for over \$1 million. It changed hands a couple of more times and then we sold it for \$4.2 million. Now it's worth between \$10-12 million."

According to Silverman, some 15 per cent of current real estate sales in these prestigious neighborhoods is to foreign buyers, many of them from the Middle East and an increasing number from Japan.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By Dr. Allan Bruckheim

Aids can't be spread through shared use of common objects

QUESTION: I recently discovered that I had wax in my ear. I borrowed a bobby pin from my hairdresser to remove the wax. It wasn't until hours later that I began to fear that I might have exposed myself to AIDS by using this borrowed bobby pin on my body. I know that you're not supposed to remove wax this way, but have I exposed myself to more than I bargained for?

ANSWER: You're right when you state that nothing should be placed in your ear to remove wax that normally forms there. This was not as a protection against infection and by using a sharp tool, such as a bobby pin, you expose yourself to ordinary infections of the ear that physicians call "otitis externa."

Such afflictions are treated appropriately with antibiotics. But the question you pose is more important than a mere discussion of otitis. Many people fear that they may catch Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome from an instrument of any kind, by transmission through clothing, or even touching something that an AIDS victim once may have held. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Because of its deep significance, the collection of the statistics concerning the transmission of AIDS has received intensive attention. It seems quite clear at this time that there are two primary ways of transmitting this disease. One is through sexual contact and the other is through the transmission of blood or blood products from one person to the other.

Although it still seems that the largest group at risk for this disease is the gay population, it has become apparent that drug abusers who exchange improperly sterilized needles or needles that have never been sterilized at all are also at great risk for contracting the disease.

But the transmission of AIDS by casual contact, or through other objects, is certainly NOT a means of transmission.

So, I guess you are fairly safe as far as AIDS is concerned, but it is clear that you've got to stop this bad habit of cleaning wax out of your ears with any sharp instrument.

QUESTION: Whenever my 7-year-old daughter eats peanut butter, she breaks out in hives. I want to know about food allergies. How common are they, and is there any hope my daughter will soon outgrow them?

ANSWER: Food Allergies are always high on the list of a parent's concern, particularly when a common and well-loved food seems to be the offending agent. An allergy is sensitivity to a substance that's usually harmless to other people. About one per cent of the population is estimated to experience immediate allergic symptoms, such as hives, sneezing, vomiting, and even shock or loss of consciousness, after eating particular foods.

In one study of 132 children, four foods — peanuts, other nuts, eggs and milk — caused 90 per cent of the allergic reactions. Soy products, shrimp, bananas, tuna, chicken and trout were responsible for the remaining 10 per cent of reactions. Chocolate, strawberries and tomatoes, often cited as causing allergic reactions, are probably unjustly blamed in many cases.

It's quite possible that your child will outgrow her food allergy. Many doctors believe that food sensitivity decreases with age. Until then, you will have to exercise just a bit more attention to her diet.

Dr. Allan Bruckheim welcomes questions from readers. Although he cannot respond to each one individually, he will answer those of general interest in this column. Write to Dr. Bruckheim in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 119, Orlando, Fla. 32802-0119.

Dr. Faustus revived in London

The Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Christopher Marlowe's *Dr Faustus* was recently staged at The Pit, Barbican Centre, London.

Faustus is a brilliant philosopher, doctor and lawyer, whose work has taken him to the outer reaches of human knowledge. He seeks to master the secret of life and death, to conjure miracles and to rival god in divinity.

He signs away his soul to the devil in a pact written in his own blood. Twenty-four years later, Lucifer returns to claim what is his...

The play is directed by Barry Kyle, designed by Ashley Martin-Davies and has music by Ilona Sekacz.

Picture (right) shows Stephen Simms as Cornelius (left), Gerard Murphy as Dr Faustus (Centre) and William Chubb as Valdes in the Royal Shakespeare Company's production.



Entertainment Briefs

Lucy revisited: Producer Larry Thompson will film an original two-hour film, *I Loved Lucy: The Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz Story*, for CBS-TV broadcast next fall.

Biographical dramatist William Lucy, whose credits include *The Last Days of Patton*, is writing the screenplay, which begins in the 1940s when Ball and Arnaz met and fell in love.

Thompson, who said the story will end with the production of the first *I Love Lucy* TV episode, will star unknown actors in the two leading roles.

Duvall added: Robert Duvall has been added to the

cast of *Days of Thunder*, starring Tom Cruise and currently filming in North Carolina and Florida.

Duvall will play a crew chief who comes out of retirement to help an ambitious young driver (Cruise) to succeed in the competitive world of NASCAR racing. Also joining the cast is Randy Quaid as a car dealer who dreams of backing a championship race team.

Days of Thunder is being directed by Tony Scott for producers Jo and Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer from a Robert Towne screenplay based on story idea by actor Cruise.

Rickshaws dumped at sea

Jakarta drivers lose jobs — fish find home

JAKARTA, (Reuters): Jakarta's three-wheeled cycle rickshaws, or becak, are being dumped into the sea, providing a home for fish but leaving tens of thousands of drivers screaming for jobs.

The government says becak are inhuman and pledged to wipe them out by April, but its heavy-handed removal of drivers' livelihood has come under fire from all sides and has even led to violence.

Straining to pedal a rusty rickshaw loaded down with a middle-aged housewife, her three children and mountains of shopping in searing tropical heat is a tough way to earn a living.

"It's inhuman... a sort of exploitation of man by man," said Jakarta Governor Wiryono Atmodarminto.

But drivers, who earn 5,000 rupiah (2.80

dollars) a day, would rather pedal than do nothing. They say they are being sacrificed to the development of the Indonesian capital.

The Jakarta government defends its policy, saying the administration is offering programmes for becak drivers registered as residents of Jakarta to retrain them as barbers, vendors or motor-vehicle drivers.

The government is asking non-residents to return to their hometowns or join a resettlement programme outside Java.

"What can I do if not driving a becak? Changing jobs requires capital. Where can I get the money from?" said Bedjo, a driver whose rickshaw was seized by a becak task force.

He said hopes of sending his two chil-

dren to school this year were drowned with his becak, which the government sent to a watery grave.

Becaks, pronounced bechak, were introduced in the 1940s when the occupying Japanese army ran out of horses.

Now, manoeuvred through the narrow lanes of Jakarta's crowded residential areas, they are considered incompatible with a modern city.

Fumes The government says motorised three-wheelers and minihuses will replace becak. But residents say their fumes will make Jakarta's polluted air even grimmer and their higher price will force many people to walk.

Abolishing becak was first proposed in 1972, slicing the 125,000 rickshaws to

about 10,000 before the campaign lost steam. In the 1980s, number swelled to nearly 100,000.

The current crackdown began in earnest in December. Day and night, a city task force nets becak in Jakarta's sidestreets, wresting them from their owners and sending them to be dumped.

Fights between task-force officers and drivers are rife. Stone-throwing and attacks by both sides have left at least two people dead.

But becak dumping has a bright side. When officials found drivers raiding dumps and rebuilding the rickshaws, they took to throwing them into Jakarta Bay.

Fishermen found certain fish and mussels have rapidly multiplied under artificial reefs of moose becak corpses.

SNIPPETS

Passerby killer nabbed

A BAKERY owner who mauled a passerby last month was arrested by police at his home in Navotas yesterday morning, hours after the victim died.

Ernesto Ramirez, 31, of Lot 2, Carville Homes Subdivision, Tanza, gave up peacefully to Lt. Col. Edgardo Avendano.

Sgt. Rogelio Castillo said Ramirez went into hiding after beating up Noel Ulip, 16, of 27 Makinis St., Tanza, on Dec 23.

The victim's father, Alfredo, and a witness said Ulip was walking home along Makinis St. when Ramirez rushed him and beat him up for no clear reason.

Naked & dead

A MAN was found naked and dead in a hotel room in Pasay City. The hotel registry book showed that the man registered as Carlos Ferrer but Cpl. Salvador Aguas, Cpl. Jaime de la Cruz and Pfc. Joseph Nepomuceno theorized that the man had used a fictitious name.

Cashier Maria Luzviminda Timkang, 27, of Dapitan Lodge at 47 Dapitan St., Pasay City, said the man checked in with a girl who looked "young and dirty."

Roomboys Florencio Timkang and Casiano Florida knocked at the door of the room but no one answered.

They opened it with a duplicate key and found the man dead. The girl was gone.

The body was brought to the NBI morgue for autopsy.

Businesswoman slashed to death

THREE men slashed to death a businesswoman in Quezon City who turned down their request for a loan.

Honoraria Ballerda, 55, of 30 Masaya St., Barangay Gulod, Novales was found dead in her room. She died from a slash wound in the neck.

Homicide investigator Pfc. Mariano Rivera Jr. said that the incident happened at the victim's house.

Ballerda's housemaid, Adela Argates, 55, told police that one of the men entered the house and pretended to pawn a ring. Later the two other men forced open the door and the three suspects grabbed Ballerda.

The three men pushed Ballerda to her room where she was hogtied and slashed in the neck. Argates told investigators.

The suspects before leaving ransacked the victim's house and fled with still an undetermined amount of money and jewelry.

Witnesses told police that on Friday the three men tried to secure a loan from Ballerda but they were turned down.

36 barangays freed from rebel control

THE military has established government presence in at least 36 barangays formerly controlled by communist rebels in Cotabato province in 1989.

Brig. Gen. Orlando V. Soriano, 603rd Army Brigade commander, said the deinflicted barangays are fronts 53 and 72 of the rebels' operational and expansion areas.

Soriano said deinflicted means that the barangays are rid of CPP/NPA political and military structures.

"The insurgents have suffered a major setback in front 53 where they used to control 40 barangays two years ago. By the end of 1989, rebel control was reduced to 25 and by November, 1989, the front was completely deinflicted," he said.

The front, which includes the towns of Magpet, President Roxas, Matamban, Antipapas and Kidapawan, is now rid of CPP/NPA shadow government, militia, forced taxation and rebel atrocities, Soriano said. He added that in front 72, comprising the towns of Makilala and Tulunan, the number of CPP/NPA controlled areas had been reduced from 31 to 20 in 1989.

He said that more sympathetic to the CPP/NPA cause have begun to change their minds while those forced by NPA guns have vowed to fight back.

Student writers pit talents

SOME 200 editors and writers of public and private secondary school publications will pit talents during the regional secondary schools press conference (RSSPC) at the North Cotabato School of Arts and Trades in Barangay Sudapin, Kidapawan, Cotabato from January 9 to 12.

Diamar P. Kadon, director 3 of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, said the theme of the conference is "The Role of The School Paper in Promoting Peace Education."

The student writers and their advisers will come from the nine school districts of Central Mindanao namely Maguindano, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur I, Lanao del Sur II, Iligan City, Marawi City and Cotabato City.

Kadon said they represent at least 50 student publications.

Local writers and national correspondents have been invited to share their expertise in the subjects of news and feature writing, editorial writing, layout, copyediting and headline making, sports writing and other journalistic fields.

Grenade blast kills 1, wounds 12 others

A WOMAN was killed on the spot and 12 other people, including a German, were seriously wounded after an unidentified man lobbed a grenade into a mini bus Saturday in Cagayan de Oro City.

In a report received by Constabulary Chief Major-General Ramon E. Montano, the fatality was identified as Mitusal Waga, 25, who died on the spot.

Wounded were Ludwig Gerhard, 57, a German tourist, Annie Baroy, Janice Pacana, Arami Desano, Jonathan Waga, Marilou Udang, Lester Victor Udang, 4, Victor Udang Sr. Concepcion Sandig, Elaine Baroy, Linda Casino and Vincent Sandig.

Investigation disclosed that the passengers were in a mini-bus driven by Jonathan Waga when a man at the corner of Borja and Captain Vicente Streets threw a grenade at the vehicle.

Robbers kill Korean in Albay

A SOUTH Korean national working with the World Health Organisation (WHO) was killed and another was seriously wounded when they were shot by robbers in Albay.

South Korean embassy and Philippine military officials said Sung Mi Kim was killed and Man Suck Park was injured when one of three gunmen shot them inside a jeep they had hired.

The Koreans were going to a resort house near Mayon volcano when the gunmen hitched a ride. The men pulled out their guns inside the jeep after a short distance and announced a hold-up.

The driver of the vehicle brought the Koreans to the Albay Provincial Hospital.

Pig farm robbed of P140,000

SIX armed men took more than P140,000 in cash and pieces of jewelry from a pig farm in Barangay Tungkong-Maogga, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.

Farm manager Luis Munoz, 27, was beaten up by one of the suspects when he refused to open the cash box.

Munoz and nine farm helpers were hogtied by the robbers, who were armed with guns and bladed weapons.

A bank book owned by employee Susan Lagrimas was also taken by the group who fled in the farm's service jeep.

Troops from 145th PC company, who arrived at the farm minutes after the robbery found the service jeep abandoned at the junction of Tungkong-Maogga Road and Novales, Quezon City.

Witnesses said three men carrying a big bag boarded a bus bound for Metro Manila, while three others boarded jeepney bound for Bigte, Norzagaray, Bulacan.

'Cracker' kills teen

BACOLOD CITY — A teenager died at the Bacolod Sanitarium and Hospital from a firecracker burst, police reported.

Police said Joe Alvin Oga, 18, of Rosario Hinigaran, succumbed to third degree burns all over his body.

Early reports said Oga was making firecrackers at his house when the incident occurred.

Brother kills brother

A SIDEWALK vendor was stabbed dead by his younger brother, following a heated altercation in a depressed Navotas community.

Abelardo Fernandez, 30, of Tabing-Ilog, Block 33, Phase 2, Area 2, Dagat-Dagatan, Navotas, died from stab wounds in the left arm and chest.

The suspect, Dondon Fernandez, 28, escaped, police said.

The victim's daughter, Angelita, 13, told Navotas police chief Col. Alberto Nepomuceno that her uncle had earlier slapped her and burned her school uniform.

Love conquers cold, culture and jet lag

WHEN one sees a foreigner walking down the street with a Filipina, what's the first thing that comes to mind?

"Di Ermita," says artist Santiago Bose.

"Well I can tell if she's a beanie," says David Baradas.

"Must be a pick up," declares a Makati businessman.

"Siguro domestic na sinuswerte," laughs another.

What cynics, you think. But where does the blame lie? In some tourists who come for sex tours? In would-be mail-order brides who hope for a better life by sending their names and addresses to international pen pal magazines? In servicemen who quell their longings, after weeks at sea, on hapless victims of the trade?

Santi says that for a time in sagada, if a foreigner came with a Filipina "babatuhin sila." The locals didn't want a repeat of Puerto Galera in Sagada. And if the Filipina wasn't that kind of woman?

"Mulas nila."

What if the mixed couple were mature, say in their 40's or 50's and obviously married?

"How sweet" and "Iba na yan," were the answers.

What if the young, mixed couple had a baby, obviously theirs, in tow?

"Theo it's OK because they're a family, they're together, it changes things." But the unrelenting cynic laughs. "Of course I'd wonder, did she start out as a pick-up?"

But what if the woman was obviously well-educated, and out from a low economic level?

"Hmmp, pa sasayal pa siya. Siguro social climber. Gusto maging cultured, malayan ng titulo ang pangalan. She probably thinks a Filipino isn't good enough for her."

Now turn the tables. Filipino male, foreign female.

"If he's good-looking," says one male, "theo it's not surprising. But if he's not then I'll think: wow, nakaloko na naman ang Pinoy!"

Says a woman friend: "Ang daming magandang Pinay, why choose a foreigner?"

"It's machismo that makes it difficult," says the Makati businessman. "A Filipina will always adapt. She's willing to do just about anything to make a marriage work, keep her man even if it means changing her ways and bringing up the kids Western. But a Filipino has this machismo thing, a woman has to adapt to him, and maybe foreigners can't accept this."

But more nobly perhaps, could it be nationalism?

Filmmaker Eric de Guia married to German Katrin, definitely wants his children brought up "Filipino" that they're not even allowed to eat at an American hamburger chain. "Why should they?" he says, "when they can eat Filipino?"

Then there are those, not quite completely cynical, who spot a mixed couple, regardless of which is which and shrug and say something like this: "You know foreigners. The women, they like dark, earthy men. Something primal, animal, macho. They think they are better lovers. And the men, they like slim, dark, exotic, doe-eyed, long-haired Asians. They probably have fantasies of their being servile and erotic, able to be dominated. Hah?"

The romantic, ready to see everything with Valentine-tinged glasses, will gaze dreamily and say: "It must be true love. Look at them, willing to overcome the differences in culture, the separation from family, friends and things familiar. What a sacrifice for love."

As the man and woman make the necessary adjustments to the course of the relationship, whether it be in

everyday trivialities or in major changes such as a new language, a new religion or a new home country, it is not so much them a their children who are faced with the challenges of straddling two cultures. East or West? And where shall the twin meet?

Here a few attempts at answers.

Zoubelda Lemqadden and Rene Aquitania

Not the guy you'd bring home to mother

ZOUBEIDA Lemqadden is like a lovely child. Slim and tiny, she has an arresting face, the kind of face that would be at home on glossy magazine covers. At 26, going on 20, she is vibrant and energetic, with a personality that radiates into every corner of the room. Before you even see her coming, you can hear her quick sentences in accented English peppered with oo, di ba, o sig.

Rene Aquitania is tall, dark and unassuming, what a highland warrior should have looked like. He sports long hair tied at the nape, rubber slippers, rolled up faded jeans and a denim jacket. If you took him home to mother she would grit her teeth and demand to know what you see in a struggling 27-year-old artist.

Talkative, he isn't limiting his responses to *siguro, maari, sana, bakit hindi*. He is a shy, reluctant victim to a tape recorder and questions, the answer to which it seems he'd rather keep to himself. His gaze remains fixed out the window as the evening falls over the main thoroughfares of Baguio City, his thoughts far away, probably dwelling on the space he so desperately seeks.

But these two very contrasting personalities are a couple.

Zoubelda was born in Algeria, of Muslim parentage. At the age of three the family migrated to Belgium, where they made a life for themselves in Brussels, but kept close to their Moroccan culture. They were practising Muslims, but Zoubelda rebelled. "My parents were very strict and they wanted me to wear a turban, the long dress. But I was a teenager, I went around with my punk friends."

She finished cosmetology in school. For 10 years she worked as a model for sculptors and painters in an art academy. "I have always been the inspiration for artists."

In November of 1987 she took a trip to Manila intending to stay for two months. Her friends took her to a film showing at Goethe House. It was part of a workshop

on film-making that Rene had been attending. They met and he casually invited her to see Baguio where he lived. About a week later there she was. And there she stayed.

"I love Baguio," she says. "I love the weather, I have a lot of friends here, and of course, there is Rene. But even if I were alone, I would like to live here. It's simple. You don't have to go far to find nature, the mountains, the beach."

When she first arrived, Zoubelda spoke very few words in English. Her mother languages are Moroccan (Arabic) and French. Rene isn't comfortable with English. A reasonable conversation, when he decides to bae ooe, is in Filipino or Ilocano.

How did they communicate?

Zoubelda says: "I had a notion of what was said, even if I only spoke a little, so there was no problem understanding."

Rene half-jests about the early days: "Walang problema, masaya ngn. Noong gumaling na ang Ingles niya, di puede na kaming mag-argumento, lumalabas na yang differences."

The two months became eight and then Zoubelda went back to Brussels. "I went to tell them I would live here and stay here. Everybody was angry. It was not the life they wanted for me." They had hoped that she would marry a cousin, the man chose for her, and live like a Moroccan, a Muslim. Since her return to Baguio her family, except for a younger sister, has not answered her letters. "It's hurting so much. They didn't like my decision and you can understand them. I'm so far from their dream for me... I miss them, friends cannot replace your family. That's why sometimes I have the blues."

Rene's family she doesn't see much of. "His family is very nice, but I think, conservative. We are not married, but I think they will accept me soon."

Next to family she misses her "international" friends — Africans, Asians, Europeans. Here all her friends are Filipino. "The Filipinos are very gentle, very friendly. But the hardest part was how to talk to people, answer people. Filipinos are very shy, hardly speak straight about themselves, about their feelings. I speak openly, but they are not so daring. Sometimes they will say they like even if they don't. But it's OK. I appreciate them. Rene's friends are very good to me that sometimes he gets very jealous when they pay attention to me."

Two years together and the adjustment has not been easy, but a question posed is whether it is mainly because of the difference in cultures or also because of the path Rene has chosen to follow.

Rene, a member of the fledgling Baguio Arts Guild paints, is musically inclined and experiments in what has come to be known as performance art. Talking to them separately, one in English and one in Tagalog, one sees how their feelings weave in and out of each other, presenting what seems to be reconcilable differences.

"He gets so involved in his work, you know, you can't interrupt him. He forgets everything else."

"Parang sundalo rin ang buhay ng artist. Pag kailangan, ubuhos mo na lahat hanggang makalimutan mo na ang lahat. Minsan mahirap tanggapin ng tao."

"Finally I think I'm beginning to understand and accept him."

Zoubelda, child-like, has a strength that keeps her going. There can be financial strain, but always, she works hard. With no maid to help her she is burdened with laundry and all the other household chores, plus the baby to attend to. When she does find the time, she makes jewelry. But it's the aloneness that gets to her the most, who Rene is working on a project especially if it is in Manila.

"They we fight. But I think I fight with him because I miss him."

Rene, his head filled with dreams and fantasies he wants to fulfill. "Gusto ko magkaroon ng isang tribong Filipino... magkaroon ng isang village. Magtatanim, walang gamang perang tinip, may sariling ritual. Mainanang na Pilipino. Ang Pilipino ngayon mas nasasapawan ng teknohiyu, ng banyago. Yung dugo natin iba, yung kaluluwa, Pilipino."

Rene and Zoubelda, young, beginning a life together, striking a balance between their different worlds.

Rene laughs, "Siyo first world ways, ako third world ways. Pero marami akong natutunan sa kanya... Like geography. Doit marami akong hindi alam sa mapa. Manners. Dati kamay, kutsara, tinidor. Ngayon marinung na ako gumamit ng kutsilyo. History ng mundo. Pag nagkukulwenyo siyo, para kaming namamasyal, nagpupunta king saan."

"Ako magagal, take it easy. Siya akala mo mamamata sa tayo ngayon. Gawin mo na. Mobilis ang pace."

According to Rene he is an idealist and she, practical.

Within five minutes of meeting Zoubelda, she is rocking their five-month daughter to sleep, she has provided a glimpse into their differences. "Rene has dreams and are OK, but," and she looks at her sleeping child, "this is reality."

Scherenzade is what they have called their baby.

Prana is what Zoubelda calls her.

Manongis Rene's term of endearment. She has been baptized at a Muslim mosque, and maybe Zoubelda says she will teach her the traditions of Morocco. "I love my country and I am proud of it and Prana should know of it. But I could never live there, living with a man unmarried, an artist, with a child, it would be difficult."

To her daughter she speaks French (only I can teach her that here). English ("although she will learn it anywhere she goes"), and the Tagalog and Ilocano she knows.

Will little Prana, "Tutor's girl" be raised Filipino? Rene replies "Sana ooo, may maganda."

Zoubelda Lemqadden, Moroccan of Belgium, like gustos of hot desert wind or a forceful river with current quick and strong.

Rene Aquitania, Filipino of Baguio City, like a calming summer breeze or the gentle flow of a mountain stream.

Both nature's children, whatever differences in culture or personality, there they find a common ground.

Olivia Macasact and Keith Hardie

A hankering for home

SHE had actually been dragged to a recruitment agency by a friend desperate to go abroad, and although she had a fine job in a five-star hotel, for the heck of it she applied. She was accepted.

He had been working with a firm in the United Kingdom for five years and was offered a position overseas. Twenty-one years old with nothing to hold him back, he thought it was a good opportunity to see another part of the world, never mind that he had to check the map to see just where it was.

So in October of 1980, Olivia Macasact, Filipina and Keith Hardie, English, both found themselves working in a hotel in Dubai. She at reception, he as trainee manager.

Was it love at first sight?

He says: "It definitely was for me."

She says: "There was an attraction, that slowly developed."

Mid-'82 they decided to marry, with barely six weeks to prepare. Olivia had over the years lost touch with her friends. Only Keith's sister and best man were able to make the trip, and so a small wedding it was.

Keith belongs to the Church of England and marrying in Manila meant the Catholic Church insisting he convert, but his family felt strongly about this. Olivia is Catholic and her mother felt that she couldn't be anything but. A compromise had to be reached and so they married in a Baptist church.

Olivia says: "What has religion got to do with it? It was really like a civil marriage but in a church. We sort of borrowed their church. It was nice: I was in a gown and all, walked down the aisle, but it wasn't Catholic, it wasn't Protestant."

The next challenge was where to live. Olivia refused to go to the UK. "I just didn't like the idea," she says. "The British people in the Middle East weren't very nice. They were snobbish and I thought, if I were to live there I wouldn't like these." So they tried the Philippines.

Keith had no problems in adapting to his wife's country. "I'm very adaptable. In the industry I'm in you meet different people constantly — different customs — so you have to adapt to them and get to learn to accept people for what they are and treat them accordingly. You exchange ideas." Of Manila he has this to say. "It's nice here. It's fun to work. People are easily motivated. They enjoy having fun."

To be continued next week



Keith Hardie and Olivia Macasact-Hardie: bridging religious and cultural differences



Rene Zoubelda and Prana: finding common ground

Joey Loyzaga: mixed emotions

JOEY LOYZAGA has finally wound up with a new home in Pop Cola after being discarded by Anejo Rum 65 and failing to come to terms with Pepsi Cola.

At the Coca-Cola camp, the younger Loyzaga who is once more separated from his older brother Chito, is filled with mixed emotions. He is happy having found a new home and having gotten what he asked for. On the other hand, he is sad having left Anejo, a team he wanted to play for as long as his idol, playing-coach Sonny Jaworski is active in his dual capacity.

Joey was left unprotected by the 65ers along with Nandy Garcia, Cayetano Salazar, Harmon Codinera were drafted by Pepsi, while Garcia and Salazar went to Anejo. Cezar found no takers, through.

"I admit I was hurt because I was left unprotected. I still am but even if I have already found a new team, I already talked to coach Jaworski and God-willing, we might be together again," said Joey who turned 28 last September 23.

Jaworski was quoted as saying that the younger Loyzaga lacked consistency in his game. A streak shooter, he would have a high-scoring night on one occasion and then lay a big fat egg the next time around.

Last year, he averaged 9.9 points seeing action in 30 contests. He had a high of 33 points. He also had a total of 102 rebounds, 86 assists, and 18 steals.

His best plus factor was having the highest percentage from the three-point region among the 65ers. He converted 45 of 97 attempts for a lofty 46.4 per cent.

And there were times when he bailed the team out of trouble

because of his clutch hits. These and more were the reasons why he feels it wasn't right to be left unprotected by Anejo. But being a professional, he accepted the decision of his former coach.

His contract with the 65ers expired last January 31 and thus he started negotiating for a better deal with Pepsi. Unfortunately, his demands were not met as Pepsi management stood pat on their offer.

"But I can't say anything bad about Pepsi management. They were fine gentlemen. People there were very supportive. I gave them priority. There's no truth to reports that I turned my

back on them. Unfortunately, we did not come to terms. Instead, we came to an agreement that they'll help me find a team so they traded me," said Joey.

First, it was reported that Formula Shell was interested, not only in Joey Loyzaga, but also in Tonichi Yturri. But Shell management did not pursue this intention because, in the words of PBA Chairman Rey Marquez, "we wanted to help Pepsi come up with a strong team for the benefit of the league."

Next, Presto showed interest in Loyzaga and was willing to trade either Onchie dela Cruz or Joy Carpio to Pepsi to acquire him. But the deal did not push

through either.

Finally, Pepsi and Pope reached an accord. Joey Loyzaga went to the Sizzlers in exchange for the first and second round picks of the Concepcion franchise next year. Joey inked a two-year pact with the Sizzlers.

"It wasn't really a difficult decision to make," said Pop Cola coach Joseller "Yeng" Guiao. "We studied the list of prospective PBA applicants next year and we found there was little talent left. Most of the impressive players will go up to the PBA in 1993 or 1994 and so we decided to give up our first two picks next year in favour of Joey."

At Pop, Joey joins Anejo teammates Garcia and Salazar. More importantly, he joins collegiate buddy, Elmer Reyes, with whom he played alongside during their days at San Beda.

"You might say we're not that strong, but give us time and we'll prove we can win games, too," said Loyzaga. "It's just a matter of getting our act together."

However, Joey faces a perennial problem before the opening of the 16th season on February 18. Because he hardly practiced while haggling with Pepsi and other teams, he has gained a lot of unwanted weight. He claims that at 210 lbs. He is ten pounds above his playing form.

But during the Pop Cola-Beijing All-Stars exhibition contest last Sunday, it was evident he was more than just ten pounds over the limit. Loyzaga was hardly impressive as he finished with only five points. The only time the fans chanted his name was when they felt Loyzaga's bulldozing presence was needed. All throughout the evening, he used roughhousing tactics against the taller Chioese.



Embassy corner

Travel tax problems solved

THE Philippine Embassy in Kuwait has just been notified that effective January 2 this year, the POEA (Philippine Overseas Employment Administration), instead of the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) will now, once and for all, issue an Overseas Employment Clearance (OEC), and this OEC will, from now on, serve as the Travel Tax Exemption certificate and "exit pass."

What this all means for the overseas contract worker (OCW) is that when he/she goes home to the Philippines for vacation or family emergencies, on his/her way back to his/her place of work, all he/she has to do is to pass by the POEA and get his/her OEC to enable him/her to return to his place of work, without



Parangal sa Dakilang Pilipino awardees: from (left) Mrs. Lidia Alejandro, who received award for husband Lean Alejandro; Mrs. Labayan, for Bishop Julia Labayan; Prof. Randy David, Mrs. Felicidad Olalia, Sen. Lorenza Tanada, Sen. Alan Bengzon, and Rep. Oca Santos.

Another kind of heroism

THERE seems to be in the country today a hunger for heroes, which probably means that the morale of the nation is low. A tremendous need is perceived for men who are larger than life, who are capable of superhuman feats, so that as long as such men are around, there is hope that our troubles can be surmounted. The Filipino soldier, when he is not pulling a coup, is often heroic, and soldiers have been honored accordingly, which is not at all a bad idea.

The danger is not that we will ever lack heroes, but that we will recognize only one kind, and eventually have only one kind, the kind that bears a gun.

This is the reason for the special relevance of the Parangal sa Dakilang Pilipino, an award programme of the PDP-Laban and the Jaime N. Ferrer Foundation which recently honoured six Filipinos for their commitment to the service of country and people.

These were former Senator Lorenzo M. Tanada, the country's greatest living nationalist, recipient of the Grand Award; Secretary Alfredo R.A. Bengzon, the architect of the country's drug policy; Bishop Julio Labayan who has campaigned hard for environmental protection, and launched a programme for the upliftment and protection of the Dumagats, a minority in his prelature of Quezon; Prof. Randolph S. David of the Third World Studies Center of the University of the Philippines whose television programme has helped enlighten the Filipino public on the crucial national issues; Rolando Olalia, the martyred labour leader; and Lean Alejandro, the martyred youth leader. That two of the awardees were posthumous shows that dedication to a cause is not without risks, and that therefore it takes a great deal of courage to be in their league. Another posthumous awardee might have been the late Jaime N. Ferrer, freedom fighter during the Second World War, and an outstanding long-time public servant, who was felled by assassins while he served as Secretary of Local Govern-

ments in 1987 — but for the fact that the foundation that bears his name is co-sponsor of the programme.

Nobody called them heroes — the citations did not use that word. But there is no doubt about the impact of their deeds on the survival chances of the country and that therefore they deserve the gratitude of the race. Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel who, as chairman of PDP-Laban, personally brain-stormed this award programme says, "We are merely pinpointing individuals in various fields whose performance should serve as the standard for public servants and for those who would serve others. In effect, what we are saying is that there's a wide variety of leaders in our country that we can rely upon not only for development but also for the preservation of our democratic institutions."

Rep. Oscar Santos was the workhorse who chaired the committee that searched for nominees all over the country. Says he, "I think all we wanted to do was give recognition where it is due. For instance, Sen. Tanada. It's high time we honoured him while he is still with us." And honour him we should, says Santos, not only for his nationalism but also for his integrity. Walang kalakohan iyan. The same could be said, incidentally, of Santos himself.

Secretary Bengzon, says Rep. Santos, stands out for the way he successfully fought for the generics law. Consider, says Santos, that a couple of years ago, the country's total drug consumption was worth P9.2 billion. And 80 per cent of that was consumed by the upper 20 per cent of the population, while the balance of consumption of 20 per cent was shared by 80 per cent of the population. The generics law will help correct that imbalance, he says.

If it were possible to have another awardee this year for community service, it would have been Bernabe Buscayno (Kumander Dante to you) who is now proving in his native Bamban, Tarlac that a farmers cooperative can succeed in the Philippines. It was a very close choice

between him and Bishop Labayan, says Santos. Prof. Randy David, on the other hand, has helped the common man understand current public issues more than any other media person. Rolando Olalia and Lean Alejandro were probably easy choices: in the act of serving, they have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The good news is that there were plenty of nominees, and the nominations committee had to trim them down to 150 before getting the board of judges, chaired by Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma, to work. Other judges were Supreme Court Justice Riddin, UP President Jose Abueva, Dean Armando Malay, Quezon City councilor Francisco Pangilinan, Fr. Nebres of Ateneo, and former labour secretary Bobbit Sanchez.

By launching the Parangal, the PDP-Laban has behaved like a civic organisation, perhaps a welcome innovation in Philippine politics. And they are going to have more off-season (that is, off-political season) activities, reveals Sen. Pimentel. This summer, they are scheduled to implement a nationwide "Caravan for Peace" to arouse popular commitment to civilian supremacy and constitutional order. They also hope to get a wider public understanding of the party's ideology. "We believe in a nationalist way of developing our country," says Pimentel. "We also believe in structuring society so that wealth and power should be redistributed and not concentrated in a few." He hastens to add that they hope to do this through a programme of the government with a legislative component fully endorsed by the people.

In the meantime, he says, Congress should concentrate on two major issues: bread, meaning the economy, and justice, instead of nitpicking with the executive branch. "This is not to say that we should give up our role as fiscalizers of the government," he stresses, "but we should cut down on the antics that we in the Senate are sometimes guilty of."

From the provinces

COTABATO CITY: The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), Western Mindanao region, in a special election held last Saturday at the Regional Trial Court of Maguindanao elected Macabangkit B. Lanto as its governor.

The election was ordered by the Supreme Court to be conducted simultaneously all over the country after it nullified the results of the IBP election in June, 1989.

Lanto, who would have been elected unopposed if not for the IBP mandatory rule requiring an opponent, is the past, president of the IBP Lanto del Sur-Morawi City chapter and former assemblyman and speaker of Autonomous Region 12. He is a UP law alumnus and as a Fulbright-Hays fellow. He obtained his master's degree at New York University where he is also a PhD candidate.

All the presidents of the various IBP chapters in Western Mindanao who were the voting delegates were present. Lanto was nominated by the host Cotabato chapter.

Among the programmes, which Lanto wants pursued, is the raising of the standard of the legal profession, improvement of the administration of justice, and the strengthening of the legal aid programme.

QUEZON CITY: Several business establishments were destroyed yesterday when a fire reportedly caused by faulty electrical wiring struck in this city.

Arson probers said property damage could reach several millions of pesos. Destroyed was a six-door, three-storey commercial building on A. Bonifacio St., Balintawak.

Investigators said the fire broke out at 11.45 am and was placed under control an hour later.

The business establishments destroyed by the fire included a heavy equipment warehouse, a spare parts store, and a hardware owned by one Antonio Tan.

Probers said it was possible that faulty electrical wiring caused the blaze because witnesses saw heavy smoke coming from the ceilings of the establishments before the fire started.

Nobody was injured in the blaze.

BATANGAS: Members of class 1969 of Batangas West High School will hold their homecoming on April 15, Easter Sunday, at the BWHIS quadrangle in Lemery, Batangas.

Homecoming organizers led by batch '69 president Vicente Marasigan, Jr., general manager of Chase Advertising, have lined up activities which include mass offering, motorcade, get-together party capped by a hingo social.

Marasigan urged all members of the class to join the affair or call Marasigan, (406346-51); Ayel de Roxas (572081) or Aida Lucero-Cinco (521251), Lita Leonor Mangueva, Gil Ponzalan or Nestor Tagle.

MANILA: Rep Carlos M. Padilla (LDP, Nueva Vizcaya) denounced the release of two cargo trucks reportedly used in the hauling of illegally cut logs.

The truck was impounded earlier by PCINP elements in Salanog town.

Padilla's denunciation was echoed by Solano Mayor Epifanio Galima Jr. and Capt. Edgar Dano, station commander of the Solano Integrated National Police, who said that the release of the two trucks has emboldened unscrupulous people to go on with their illegal logging activities.

The two trucks were apprehended by Captain Dano and his men last month and impounded for six weeks in the compound of the municipal building of Solano until these were ordered released upon the intercession of a certain "Virgil Castro," reportedly a secretary of Gov Patricia Dumalao.

Concerned citizens and civic groups monitoring illegal logging activities in Nueva Vizcaya also expressed disgust over the release of the two trucks.

Reports by the Solano INP disclosed that Castro had claimed that the effort to release the trucks was initiated by a newly-organized provincial task force on illegal logging under Dumalao.

Dano said he resisted the efforts of Castro to release the impounded vehicles, but he relented when Castro showed a "court order."

Padilla had earlier denounced in Congress various illegal activities maintaining in Nueva Vizcaya.

SAN CARLOS CITY: Pangasinan: Residents of this quiet city, many of them in anguish and in tears, have formed vigilante groups to exact vengeance on the men who raped, sodomized and murdered 9-year-old Nohleza and her sister Angelle Ann, 7, as they were coming home from school.

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents who arrived here to help the local police in the investigation, and San Carlos police operatives are now in the trail of a tricycle driver who could provide answers to the crime. The NBI agents were sent here by NBI director Alfredo S. Lim.

Meanwhile, the principal suspect in the murder and rape of the two girls was arrested by NBI agents. Arrested in Antipolo, Rizal, was Alberto Saplan of San Carlos, Pangasinan, who allegedly abducted the victims and took them to Abanon, San Carlos City, Friday, where he and five others gang-raped the girls before murdering them. The victims are nieces of Bulletin reporter Benjamin Rosario.

The bodies of the two children were found in a secluded area in Barangay Abanon, 10 kilometres from the City Hall, on Saturday, a day after they were kidnapped by a man driving a motor tricycle.

Sgt Leonardo Cayahyah and Pfc. Mesmen Magali who found the victims' bodies said Nikki Ann's rapists twisted her neck and smashed her head with a big rock.

Young Angelle Ann suffered worse fate. She was raped and sodomized before her attackers broke her right leg and bashed her head with the same rock they used on Nikki Ann.

Two women doctors, Vivian Rosario and Helen Santos, said it took them several hours before they could complete the autopsy. "We kept on crying. We could not contain our tears," they said.

Two men have been arrested, one of them a former Marine, but police could not yet establish their involvement.

Police also said that a man, claiming to be bothered by his conscience, has implicated his brother, a tricycle driver, to the twin killings.

BUTUAN CITY: Political leaders of Butuan City, who are members of the PDP-Laban, Liberal Party, Laban Demokratikong Pilipino, Bayan and other parties have requested the Commission on Election (Comelec) to initiate recall proceedings against City Mayor Guillermo R. Sanchez and Vice-Mayor Carlos Tan.

The recall proceedings are provided for in the local government code, they said.

Sanchez is at present facing a congressional investigation on an alleged "pyramidal investment scheme" which he allegedly supported. The scheme reportedly victimized thousands of poor people and involved millions of pesos.

The leaders claimed that Sanchez and Tan alleged committed neglect of duty and misconduct in office.

Under the law, an elected official may be recalled from office by his constituents on loss of confidence.

However, 25 per cent of the voters of the preceding election is needed to make a recall.

A special election under the supervision of the Comelec would then be held to elect officials for the vacant posts created.

BINONDO: A 63-year-old businessman was arrested in Binondo by Manila police agents for reportedly posing as Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) agent.

Sgt Florentino Bagallon of the Western Police District's (WPD) homicide section who was conducting surveillance in Binondo nabbed Juanito Natividad, alias "Laurio Mariano" of Novaliches, Quezon City.

The fake BIR agent was caught by Bagallon extorting money from two employees of Yulian Hardware at 1217 C.M. Recto Ave., Binondo.

BUTUAN CITY: The police station commander in Bayugan town, Agusan del Sur was shot dead by his common-law wife, a PC report said.

Lieut Col Enrique Lumpaz, Agusan del Sur, PC provincial commander and police superintendent, identified the slain police station commander as Sgt Eddie Puyon of Bayugan.

Sergeant Puyon was hit in the chest by a bullet fired from his own .38 caliber revolver and was pronounced dead by the attending physician upon arrival at Bayugan Community Hospital.

His assailant was identified as Adelina Pelaez, 43. She was immediately arrested and is now detained at the Bayugan police station.

The shooting occurred in their rented residence in Bayugan, Lumpaz said.

Motive of the killing was not immediately known.

Lumpaz ordered Capt. Wenceslao Alota, Agusan del Sur deputy police superintendent, to file a murder charge against the suspect.

LEGAZPI CITY: The pace and order condition in Albay has improved as a result of the drive of the Albay PC to rid the area of New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

The assessment was made by Lieut Col Meynardo Beltran, Albay PC-INP commander, in his year-end report to Brig Gen. Marino Filart, Reconn V commander.

Beltran said at the start of 1989, there were 202 NPA-affected barangays, 108 of which were classified as NPA-influenced, while 94 were considered infiltrated, representing 28.9 per cent of the 719 barangays of the province.

At the end of 1989, Beltran said the number of NPA-affected barangays was reduced to 148, with 80 classified as influenced, while 68 were listed as infiltrated or a 7.51 per cent decrease in the number of insurgent-affected barangays.

He said last year, there was a significant decrease in insurgency-related violent incidents in the province which registered 55 insurgency-related incidents, resulting in 28 casualties.

On combat operations, Beltran said the command initiated a total of 626 security operations which resulted in 22 encounters with NPA rebels and resulted in six NPA rebels killed, 36 captured, while 84 surrendered.

SAN CARLOS CITY: The intercession of President Aquino and Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos was asked by the grieving parents and relatives in the case of two Montessori school girls who were raped and murdered by suspected drug addicts in this city.

The heavily bruised bodies of Nikki Ann S. Nohleza, 9, and her sister Angelle Ann, 7, were found in a secluded place in barangay Aganon after a round-the-clock search conducted by the police.

Government Corporate Counsel Eddir Rosario and grandfather of the authorities to act fast on the case which shocked this city.

He aired the appeal as witnesses identified one of five of the rapist-murders.

The identity of the first suspect was revealed to the police by his own father and brother. The suspect however, was still at large.

Witnesses said the two girls were with three other schoolmates when they were picked up by five tricycle-riding men. The three other girls, however, were released by the murderers.

The Nohleza sisters were taken to a hideout of drug addicts in barangay Aganon, it was learnt.

In asking the help of Secretary Ramos, the Nohleza family through Rex Nohleza, 38, father of the girls, recalled that it was Ramos who stopped the rash of killings in this city in the early 70s.

Nohleza said it is surprising that the investigator and some local officials were dragging their feet on the case.

The Rosario brothers — Ben of Manila Bulletin and Dodo of the Balita — noted "obvious inadequacies in the investigation work."

Visit to Tacloban

RAIN was falling on Tacloban — monsoon rains delayed from December, they said — but no one complained much, or let it deter the pace or range of living. The rains caused low water pressure, and coincided with brownouts, but people smiled and coped, and spoke of problems and plans, resorts and food, and were unfailingly gracious to food researchers.

Lechon bought from one of a row of lechon shops on the main street was almost our first taste of Tacloban food — lechon eaten with suka'ta bawang rather than sauce, and not with rice, but with gaway, a tuber boiled, sliced, and effective at cutting the grease. This was our introduction to the tubero that is Leyte.

Only here, in the town of Dagami, is binagot made: a hard root called talyan (brought in from Samar) is scraped/grated on a homemade machine, then packed into a coconut half-shell along with ground malagkit, flavoured (milk, butter, eggs, peanuts, vanilla) and a "sauce" of coconut milk. Wrapped in three layers of banana leaves and securely tied, the delicacy is then hoiled for six hours over a tecoconut-shell fire. The result is delivered to Tacloban, to be sold but daily in Zamora (the city's gymnasium street). To eat it, one unwraps, turns the shell over on the plate, eases it off, and is left with a mound of succulent, moist, sweet and filling like suman, made not with rice, but with a tuber.

In the restaurant we found yet another facet of Leyteño food: the predilection for fish fresh off the fishing boat. AGUS (Old Road, Sagkahan, tel. 321-2647) is located right in a fish market, beyond the fish-dealing area, being built out over the water, within sight of the finger wharfs and fishing boats unloading.

Owner Agustina B. Go started out with a market fish stall, and has been in fish-dealing and in the restaurant business for about 40 years. She opened Agus because of friends dropping in to eat, and eventually taking over her dining room.

Breakfast with Ms. Go consisted of a platter of different broiled fishes: sandatan (pam-

Agustina Go, owner of AGUS-on-the-Gulf.

pano), mamsa (talakot), tonto (said always to swim in pairs, so that fishing for one means catching two). "Here we always take fishes whole," she admonished, as we started to cut one in half. Sybaritic were the baked tipys, scallops on the white half-shell (the other is coloured), baked with butter and toasted garlic. Juicy were the steamed sea prawns and crabs. Memorable was the whole meat, taken by the sea and in peace and leisure.

Seafood, too, is the core of the menu at the Stungba House (San Jose, tel. 323-2380), also by the sea, and made of sawali, nipa, and coconut timber. One morning we hitched a ride with Mr. Napoleon Amor, owner, who is also president of the fish dealers' and market vendors' associations. He and his wife go to market daily, she to buy the vegetables, he the meat, fish, seafood and coal. We trailed him as he pointed at prawn, and raised a finger or two to indicate amount, or chose a fish with a mere look and nod, all his fish-dealing experience behind him, and handed out a bill or two; as he put a hand on a vendor's shoulder, to listen to a colleague's problem, or to chat about the quality of a six-footed slithering along the counter. Meat was bought in minutes, by a sign and a nod at a couple of suki. Thus the freshness of Stungba fare is guaranteed by the Amors' industry, know-how, and pakisama.

With all that freshness, kinilaw is of course central to the cuisine. It is made with the usual vinegar, onions/shallots/scallops individually or in combination, tomatoes — and coconut

milk. This is used here quite as much and as happily as it is in the Bicol region, and constitutes a major dimension of Leyteño cooking. At Agus we had a delightful salad of boiled skinned eggplants dressed with coconut milk and garnished with chopped red bell peppers. At Stungba we had dagmay, the Leyteño lamb, in which gabi leaves are tied in loose knots, and cooked in coconut milk and ginger, and a langka-craha salad, also in coconut milk. Severina Gonzalo Cam, retired teacher and dedicated cook, described to us her utyan (gulya) nga bayabas, in which ripe guavas are seeded and sautéed in vegetable oil and garlic, then cooked with coconut milk/cream, a bit of brown sugar and vanilla.

Tacloban is not all gabi/gaway/talyan, however, not fish/seafood and gate. A delicious specialty we encountered was pakol, the best of which is to be found at the DAHIL SA TWO FASTFOOD AND COFFEE HOUSE (Calle Real, tel. 321-3427), owned and run by Anacortita (Coring) and Roman Reyes.

Pakol is carabao stew — bones, marrow and meat — with pechay, flavoured and made fragrant by lemongrass, ginger and leeks. It is made only from the back legs of the carabao (carabao is a Leyte favourite, and is legal, because only animals beyond working age are slaughtered), and carefully skimmed and simmered. The broth is golden and fragrant; the meat tender and of good flavour. All the carabao legs their butcher can supply are cooked daily by Coring, and always sold out — eaten at lunch and dinner, taken home (they prepack servings in plastic bags for the inevitable rush), consumed as pulutan or (the broth) for post-bangover reviving.

Coring is pretty, feminine, and power-packed. She started in the business with three Calderos on a counter to supplement her husband's income. Starting with a P20 pulutan, she served paksiw na isda, pritong isda and gulyana langka, charging P.50 and P.25. Now Dahil sa Iyo seats more than a hundred, is busy all day, and some of the Reyes' five chil-

dren earn salaries for helping out in the restaurant as well as in the raising of pigs, chickens and vegetables.

Dahil sa Iyo, Agus and Stungba House, present success stories that warm the heart. Many of us think of the provinces with some pity, since they lack the consumer goods, the big buildings, the opportunities, the glitz of Manila and Cebu. Of course the Amorsolo landscapes do conceal poverty and oppression, the lack of education and training, services and opportunities. The provinces certainly need better hospitals, more industries and less unemployment, more development. But the happy side of the picture is sketched by people like the Reyeses, the Gos and the Amors, who make their own way, create their own development, and build solidly within their communities.

Wherever we went, whenever we asked, we were told that Leyteño food was ordinary — just a lot of vegetables, rice and tubers (camote, gabi, kamoteng kahoy, gaway, etc.), fish (generally roasted on coal), and less frequently, meat (usually boiled or roasted). The vegetable dishes are considered so ordinary that few are served in restaurants (pinakbet is more often available). Yet we found a good variety of treatments of the riches of the environment, that could be shared with other Filipinos. We also found knowledgeable and alert people who knew and loved their food culture.

Claita Filipinas, Pg.D., dean of arts and sciences at the Divin Word University (familiarily called D-Woo) is a Cebuana, who looks at Leyteño food contrastively, and with insight and affection. She is who dug out dishes, informants, and experiences for us, as well as explained contrasts with Tagalog and Cebuano food. Delia Ruiz, Tagala from Quezon City, owns the only Tagalog restaurant in Tacloban (Mandau Fastfood and Don's Cabin) and, by marketing herself, and feeding local civic groups, has learned as well as the tastes of Leyte.

Pinoy produces new ornamental plants

AN AMERICAN plant tissue culture laboratory may soon put on the market an entirely new breed of aglaonema, a hardy foliage used as ornamental plants in homes and commercial establishments.

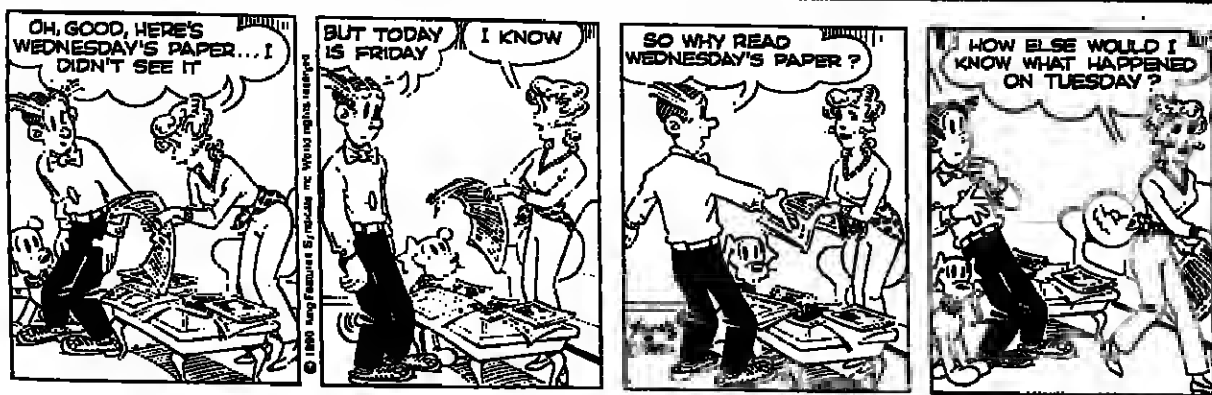
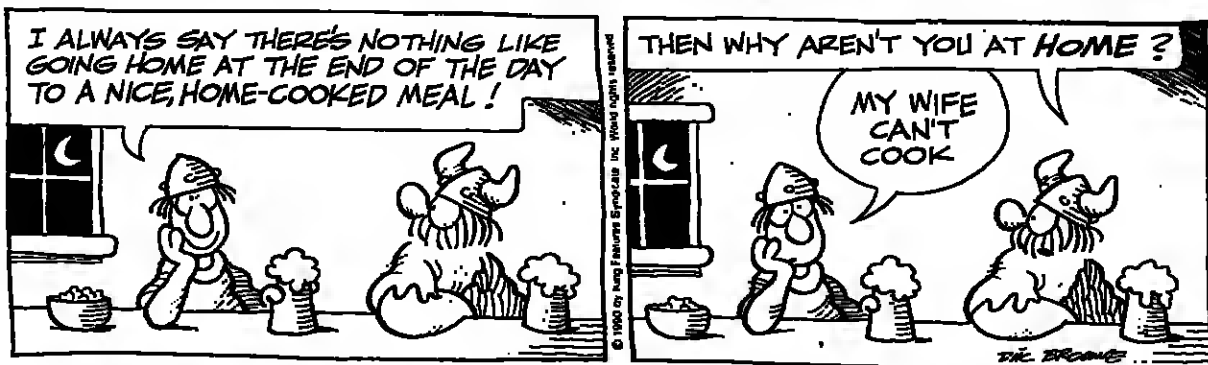
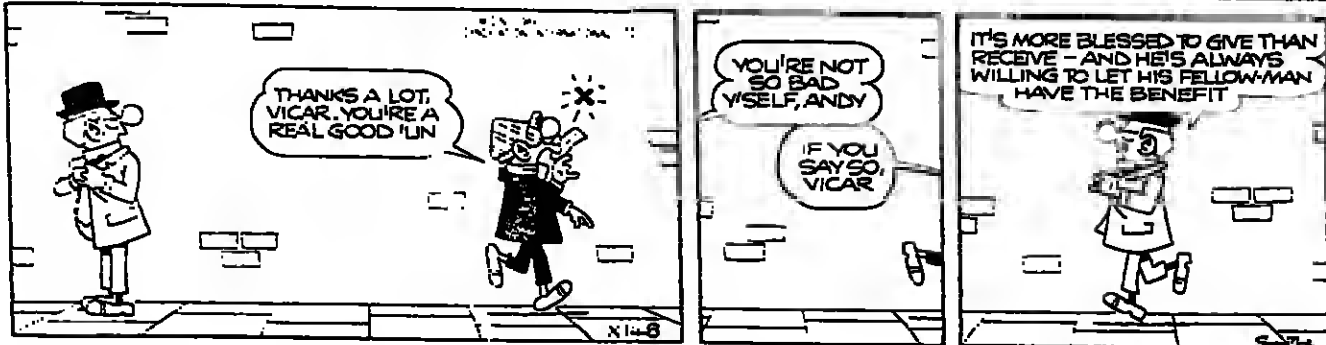
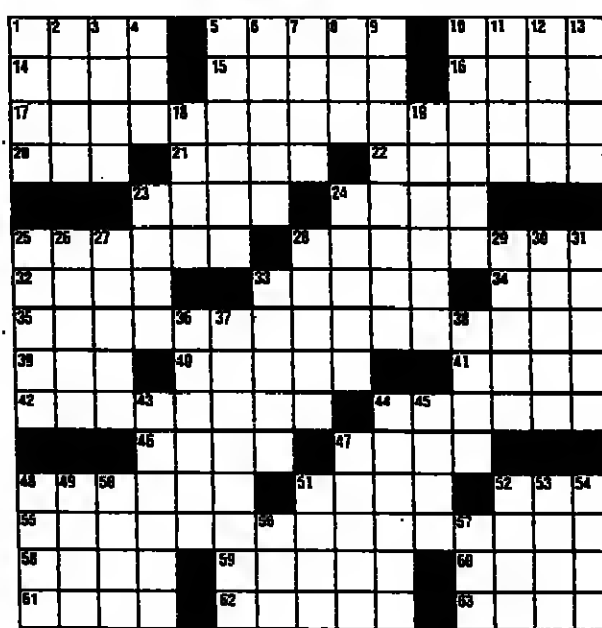
Popularly known by Filipinos as "la suerte" and native to Southeast Asia, aglaonemas come in many sizes, colours, and leaf patterns.

The plant is no ordinary "garden variety" specimen either. It is the most promising of several genus Dr Romeo R. Gutierrez of the Department of Surgery, UP-PGH, has been hybridizing during the past seven years.

If the deal pushes through, according to Gutierrez, the American company will mass produce and sell P50,000 plants in the first three years, with royalty of five to ten per cent of gross going to him.

Dr Romeo Gutierrez shows the new plant he developed, dubbed as "illumination."



BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dave Coverly**AGATHA CRUM** — By Bill Boes**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD****ACROSS**

- 1 Bandleader
- 2 Alpert
- 5 Packs down
- 10 Dugout
- 14 Broad spread
- 15 Nobelist for literature 1948
- 16 Chow
- 17 River: Brazil vs. Virginia
- 20 Heater
- 21 Curse
- 22 Crotchword, at times
- 23 Costly vasa
- 24 Author Ephron
- 25 Full-bodied
- 28 Competed with
- 32 Capital of Yemen
- 33 Units of loudness
- 34 Corrida cheer
- 35 Lake: South America vs. North America
- 39 Time in D.C.
- 40 Kitchen fixtures
- 41 Croquet
- 42 Politician Harold and family
- 44 Actors Charlie and Martin
- 46 To be, in Brast
- 47 Author Kingsley
- 48 Poplars
- 51 Canadian tribe
- 52 Letter from Athens
- 55 Ocean: South vs. North
- 58 Melee
- 59 Commend
- 60 Pay the pot
- 61 Port in Israel
- 62 Gorbachev's denials
- 63 New Mexico resort

DOWN

- 1 Frost
- 2 Sellar's saint
- 3 Perused
- 4 Dickens
- 5 Boarder
- 6 Beside
- 7 Bog down
- 8 Sound of the waasel?
- 9 Roadside rest
- 10 Indecent
- 11 Part of an Eastern church
- 12 Inlets
- 13 Movie pioneer Thomas H. —
- 18 Accessories in Osaka
- 19 Whip
- 23 Ha played
- 24 Spanish boys
- 25 Appraises
- 26 John Kaats, a.g.
- 27 Brilliantly
- 28 Reddish horses
- 29 Screen's Greene
- 30 Conceal, of old: Var.
- 31 Parking lot mishaps
- 33 Part of a play
- 36 — living
- 37 Dislike
- 38 Banjos' kin
- 43 Arab
- 44 Smudges
- 45 Yesterday, to
- 47 Court decree
- 48 — Harbor, Guam
- 49 Secular
- 50 Acidity
- 51 System of secret writing
- 52 Lab vessel
- 53 Yugoslav of note
- 54 Prized pitchers
- 56 Weep
- 57 Tabby

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ORIEAIS LAMP PHIL
PARROT APIARIAN
ERINGO SPIRACLE
SIC FOSSE ENATE
TIDE AMES
AMONG TALE OPUS
SOUTHPAW LAMENT
SUN TREASON ADA
ENCASE RONOLET
STEP STET AVERS
PISA ORLE
APRON PILAU IST
CLOSETEO ISSUER
MISERERE LIABLE
EEE TAISS SAGELY

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
THIRD-HAND LOW

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 9
7
K Q 8 3
♠ A Q 6 5 2

WEST
♠ Q 5 4
Q J 6 5
7 4
♠ 10 9 8 4

EAST
♠ J 8 3 2
A 9 8 2
10 6 5
♠ 7 3

SOUTH
♠ K 7 6
K 10 4 3
A J 9 2
♠ K J

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass 6 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

The advantage of playing in a suit contract over no trump is you can significantly increase the number of tricks you have by ruffing. On this hand, trumping one loser was all that would have been needed for six diamonds to succeed.

Unfortunately, when this hand was played in a rubber bridge game the bidding got out of hand. South's initial response is a strange action, as was North's three no trump, and South's four no trump was not intended as Blackwood, although it was taken as such. South misjudged

in electing to play no trump rather than six diamonds. West led a club, and declarer quickly ran nine tricks in the minor suits. Both defenders had discarding problems which they solved perfectly. West discarded the 5 6 Q of hearts and East 2 8 of hearts and 2 3 of spades. This was the position:

NORTH
♠ A 10 9
7
K Q 8 3
♠ A Q 6 5 2

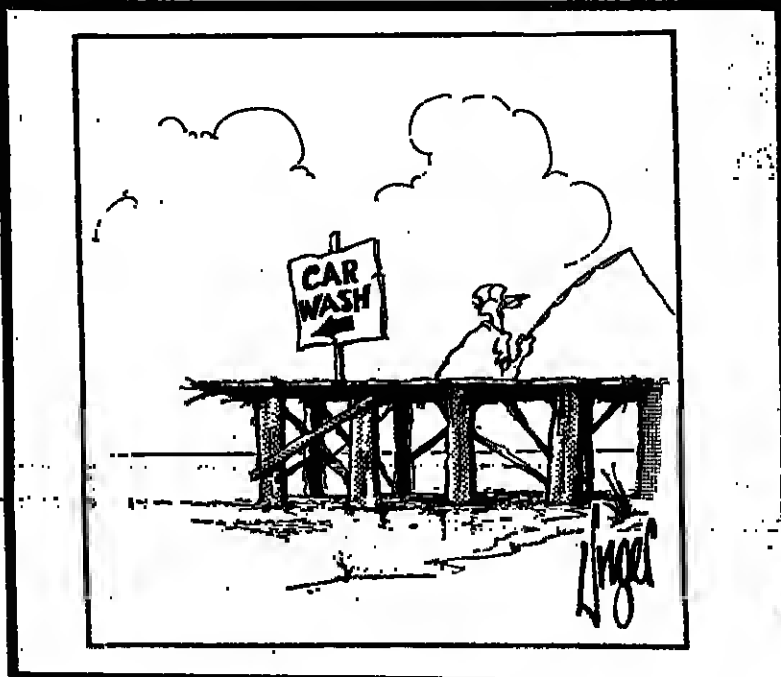
WEST
♠ Q 5 4
Q J 6 5
7 4
♠ 10 9 8 4

EAST
♠ J 8 3 2
A 9 8 2
10 6 5
♠ 7 3

SOUTH
♠ K 7 6
K 10 4 3
A J 9 2
♠ K J

Declarer led a heart from the table and misguessed by inserting the ten, losing to East's jack. Back came a low spade and when dummy's nine was played East followed low. Declarer had a choice of ways to go down after the nine held. Cashing the ace of spades would leave dummy with a spade loser; if declarer came to hand with the king of spades, the king of hearts would have to be conceded.

Note that if East covers the nine of spades, the contract makes. Declarer takes the king and plays for split honors by finessing the ten.

**YOUR STARS**

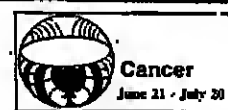
Aries
March 21 - April 20
You should not allow yourself to be invaded by negative thoughts. Your lucky numbers are 3 and 42. Give your partner no cause for complaint. Make sure you do not eat more than you know you should. Be fair.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20
Ensure your diet contains enough vitamins. You will be more persuasive but should not rely on that to get your way in all things. All kinds of exaggerations are to be avoided. Be tolerant.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
There will be plenty of distractions but you should resist them. Do not spend too long chatting on the phone. Avoid postponing things, rather get on with them straight away. Be magnanimous.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
Have the courage of your convictions and do not baulk at your problems. Instead face up to them and do not hide your head in the sand. Make sure you get plenty of exercise and enough rest, too. Be moderate.



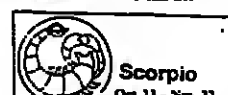
Leo
July 21 - Aug 21
You will not feel at your best but with a little more willpower will be able to do what has to be done. You should make sure you do not allow yourself to overstep. Do not rely too much on someone you do not know very well. Be dependable.



Virgo
Aug 22 - Sept 22
You will be better able to face up to change but should avoid change just for the sake of changing. Do not get lost in detail, and keep your objectives in view. Look after your health a little better. Be reasonable.



Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 23
You should pay more attention to what others are saying and be less fond of the sound of your own voice. Show a little more respect for your elders. You should do all you can to avoid running out of enthusiasm. Be truthful.



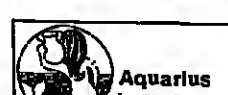
Scorpio
Oct 24 - Nov 22
You are more liable to say things on the spur of the moment. Try to curb the tendency or else you will come to regret it. Make sure you do not exceed any limits. Be polite.



Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 21
You will have some luck but more by way of avoiding loss than of gain. You should not neglect a personal matter, but nor should you spend too much time upon it. Avoid going to extremes and do not exaggerate. Be prompt.



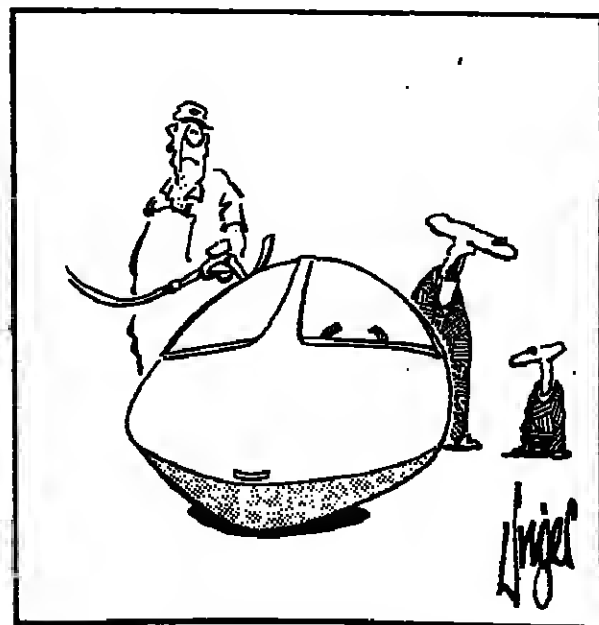
Capricorn
Dec 22 - Jan 19
You will be able to do something more practical. You will be on better terms with your colleagues at work. And you should also make sure that you do not become estranged from an old friend. Be sincere.



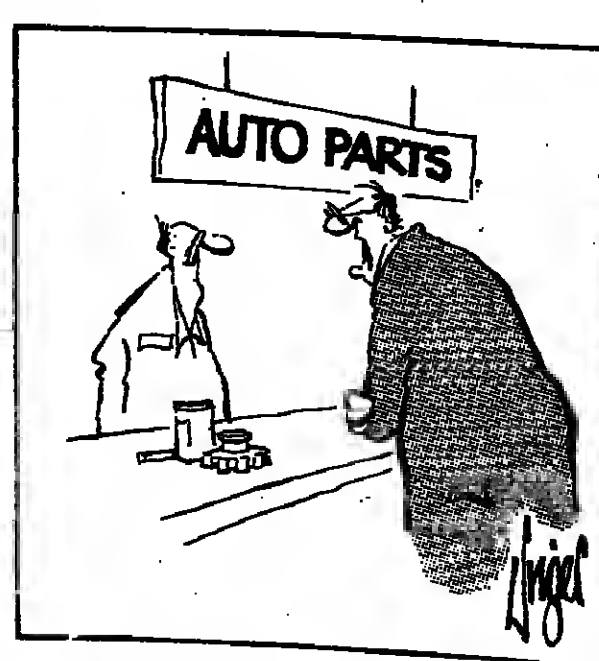
Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19
You will not get your own way in all things, but did you expect to? You will be able to widen your cultural interests, but avoid overextending yourself. Try not to make too much noise and shy away from excessive noise too.



Pisces
Feb 20 - March 20
You will be able to see things more clearly than you have done recently. You should not try to get out of keeping a promise you have made. Think twice or more before doing something you are tempted to do. Be precise.



"You'd better go now. I'm not stopping halfway across the galaxy."



"I need the front of a Ford and the back of a Toyota."



KPBC: 1st runner-up but still smiling

Bad coaching?

SIR, I am a reader of the Arab Times and through it I learned that a new basketball tournament, the KPBL League, was starting this Friday. I think that this is probably one of the best and most well-organized tournaments that the Filipinos have ever organized.

I also got a chance, through this League, to see my favourite team — KPBC — in action on Friday. This team has a number of talented players, who are well-supported by their team manager Abdullah Tifuni. But unfortunately they lost to a much better team this week.

I have played the game at college level and think the problem of the team is its coach. A number of players resent the way that the team is handled on the court.

Anyone who watched KPBC in action against EEI must have noticed that the coach used only six players for the whole game while there were five more players sitting in the bench. The players on the bench were also quite good and KPBC could have won the match had the coach used his players to a much better way and given rest to his top squad.

As it happened the players hardly had any rest and were tired towards the end of the match. In the match against KHC Bayan, KPBC were leading by nearly 30 points at one stage of the match, so why did the coach not rest his top players and use all the ones sitting on the bench. In this way the best players would have been in better condition for the latter games.

The bad handling of the team reflected on their performance towards the end and it is quite clear where the blame should lie: I play the players and the manager. I hope that the manager will do something about it.

A concerned KPBC fan
(name and address supplied)

EEI-BURGAN beat KPBC to win the One-Day Championship as the Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) got off to a magnificent start at the Keifan Gymnasium on Friday, to the delight of nearly 1,000 Filipinos who watched the first day's proceedings.

The day's activities commenced at 9:00 am with the brief opening ceremonies emceed by Marie Palacios and Ed Balanag. The parade of the 10 participating teams with their respective charming muses followed with timely execution to the tune of the Stars and Stripes march music.

The participants, as well as the crowd, were welcomed by the KPBL secretariat, headed by Guillermo Ham Lindimas, secretary-general who stressed in his welcome address that the KPBL and its activities are concentrated on the sport that is much loved by the Filipinos. He thanked all those who've helped and waited patiently for the staging of the event.

The oath of sportsmanship was led by Edgardo Mateo, the KPBL commissioner and this was followed by the formal opening of the games.

This was then followed by the presentation of the official theme



EEI-Burgan: One-Day Championship winners

song of the KPBL 1990 season, "One Shining Moment."

Next was the judgement of "Miss KPBL". Best Muse, and the "Best Uniform." Chosen by the panel of judges composed of KPBL officials to be Miss KPBL was Miss Alice Versoza of the KPBC team. The Best Uniform award went to KHC-Bayan team.

The drawing of lots for the One-Day Championship followed before the exit of the participating teams.

The commercial loss was next, and this proceeded with the assistance of Ms KPBL, Ms Alice Versoza and Bert Marin, the labour attaché from the Philippine embassy in Kuwait. Also present were other staff members of the Philippine embassy, namely Mohammad Taha Guionila, Omar Mustari, Al Santos and Lando Caburao (bowling king).

Eliminations

First game: Kay and Associates lost to KRP-Kuwait Regency Palace, 31-38.

Second game: KHC-Bayan beat Nissan Al Batain, 59-35.

Third game: KPBC beat KDD, 66-41.

Fourth game: Al Ghanim beat Trico, 36-30.

Fifth game: EEI-Burgan beat Overland, 57-30.

Semifinals

First game: KHC-Bayan vs KRP

KHC-Bayan blasted KRP 43-28 at the start of the semifinal round to qualify for the finals. The first half was close (16-13 in favour of KHC) as speedy Bolito managed to keep his team within striking distance of its eventual conqueror. The second half however, was an entirely different story as Mr X-Ortega responded to the pro-KHC gallery exploded for 25 points to seal the fate of KRP. He made a total of 37 points and was supported by Abubo with 10. On the KRP side only Bolito managed to score in twin marks, 15 points.

Second game: KPBC vs Trico

A re-match of sorts, KPBC outdistanced the Trico-5 in the homestretch, final score 48-41. It was a close contest all throughout reminiscent of the 1989 showdown, KPBC vs Magnolia. The Big Man from Salmiya — Edwin Castro was the main man as he towered over the boards. He was assisted by Barcelona 11, Perez 9, and Ferde la Cruz with 7 points respectively. On the Trico side, Calayca, a former KPBC player had 15, and streak shooter Atienza had 14 points. With this win KPBC thus joined KHC-Bayan and EEI-Burgan (automatic qualifier) to the 3 team finals.

Finals

Lots were drawn to determine who among the 3 teams — KHC-Bayan, KPBC, EEI-Burgan will play each other first.

First game: KHC-Bayan vs KPBC

KPBC was too much to handle for the Mr X fed KHC-Bayan squad. Final score was 95-74. Lito de la Cruz, the 1987 Palarong Pilipino MVP paced his team with 21 points, followed by Castro 18, Domingo 13, Arganoza 12, Barcelona 9 and Perez 8. In its losing cause, KHC was again led by Mr X — Ortega with 37 points and Abubo had 18.

Second game: KPBC vs EEI-Burgan

KPBC having the disadvantage of playing 2 consecutive games prior to this match lost a squeaker to the well rested EEI-Burgan 5. Final score was EEI-Burgan 65, KPBC 63. It was the best match of the day as both teams had no clear advantage until the dying seconds of the game. KPBC losing its ace player Lito de la Cruz on fouls found refuge in the combination of Castro, Domingo, Arganoza, Barcelona and Perez to fight tooth and nail with the EEI-Burgan 5. EEI failed to put away the game and exploit the absence of De la Cruz when their big men Lugo and Tualdes also got into foul trouble late in the second half. With time remaining at about one minute and score was 63-64 in favour of EEI-Burgan, KPBC defence tightened and with 15 seconds left Perez of KPBC recovered a loose ball and rifled a pass to team-mate Bar-



MVP: Edwin Castro (left)

celona. Barcelona, with eight seconds left elected to shoot a jumper instead of driving and battling for a foul. He missed, and the rebound was taken by KPBC's Domingo who followed it up using the glass. He also missed and with two seconds left EEI-Burgan got the ball, and in the ensuing play, as time elapsed Dingson was fouled, converting one to his two free throws for the final tally 65-63. Top scorers for EEI-Burgan were Zalavaria 16, Tualdes 14, Garcia and Lugo 11 each, and Dingson with 8. On the KPBC side Barcelona had 16, Castro 15, Perez 9, Domingo and Lito de la Cruz 8 each, and Arganoza 7.

Third game: EEI-Burgan vs KHC-Bayan

Power-house EEI-Burgan made a heyday with KHC-Bayan to the tune of 59-45. In their championship performance, Tualdes had 10, Garcia 9, Juan 8, and Dingson 7. KHC-Bayan was again led by Mr X-Ortega with 25 points and Abubo with 11.

Final results

When the smoke cleared EEI-Burgan emerged champions, followed by KPBC 1st runner-up, and KHC-Bayan 2nd runner-up.

The Mabuhay Mythical Five as chosen by the KPBL officials were: Greg Lugo — EEI-Burgan; "Galtia" — EEI-Burgan; X-Ortega — KHC-Bayan; Lito de la Cruz — KPBC; Edwin Castro — KPBC.

The Mabuhay MVP award was given to "The Salmiya Boy" — Edwin Castro for his overall impact in the day's competitions.

"KPBL" meeting

A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, at the Mabuhay Restaurant at exactly 8:00 pm. All teams are requested to send their representatives to the meeting for drawing of lots to determine groupings for the games proper, tentatively set for Thursday, February 22. Watch out for the schedule of games in the Arab Times.

Navratilova overwhelms Whitlinger

CHICAGO, Feb 17, (Reuters): Martina Navratilova fell short of perfection yesterday but the top seed was still far more than Tami Whitlinger could handle at the \$500,000 Chicago women's tennis tournament.

Navratilova just missed out on a second straight shutout as she beat Whitlinger 6-0 6-1 to reach today's semifinals against her former doubles partner, Pam Shriver.

Shriver beat fellow-American Liouda Harvey-Wild 6-1 6-2 as the seeded players romped through their quarterfinal matches.

The other semifinal will have second-seeded American Zina Garrison going against number five, Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria in a rematch of last year's semifinal won by Garrison.

Garrison beat Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-3 7-5, while Maleeva overwhelmed Ros Fairbank of the US 6-1 6-0.

Navratilova has been on top of her form this week. She has lost just five games in her three matches and had a winning string of 24 games before losing the fourth game of the second set against Whitlinger.

Navratilova totally dominated the first set as fellow-American Whitlinger won only seven points.

"You have to pour it on. Give some of these girls a little, they take a lot," said Navratilova.

The winning habit appears likely to continue against Shriver. Navratilova has a 34-3 career edge against Shriver and has won the last 24 times.

Shriver's last win against Navratilova was in the quarterfinals of the 1982 US Open.

Navratilova was amused to notice Shriver scouting her match against Whitlinger.

"I saw her watching," Navratilova said. "I don't know what she could learn that she doesn't know already."

Becker in semifinals

BRUSSELS, Feb 17, (Reuters): Top seed Boris Becker moved into the semifinals, of the \$600,000 Belgian Indoor ATP Tennis Tournament yesterday after Italian Paolo Cane retired with a back injury while trailing 6-4 3-2.

Cane, who flew back to Milan for treatment after suffering the injury in his second-round match on Wednesday, had been a doubtful starter.

The temperamental Italian, who beat Mats Wilander in leading his country to victory over Sweden in the Davis Cup first round, appeared not to be hampered by his injury until the fourth game of the second set.

In the fifth game he was visibly holding back when serving but continued to play after receiving medical assistance during the statutory break.

But barely one minute later at 15-0 down, Cane signalled to the chair umpire he was quitting.

"I served well in the first set. Then it was over," Cane said.

Becker's semifinal opponent is Magnus Gustafsson who wore down Jonas Svensson 6-7 (3-7) 7-6 (7-3) 6-3 in an all-Swedish duel.

Second seed Carl-Uwe Steeb, ranked 15 in the world, toppled lanky Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic 6-3 3-6 6-4 to set up the prospect of an all-German final.

ATP respond to McEnroe charges

TORONTO, Feb 17, (Reuters): The ATP Tour defended itself yesterday against criticisms made by John McEnroe against the ATP's chief executive officer, Hamilton Jordan.

McEnroe on Thursday aimed his well-known temper at the new Tour, which he called disappointing, and at Jordan, whom he called an absentee leader who "doesn't know anything about tennis," and who "knew how to take advantage of us."

J. Wayne Richmond, the ATP Tour's commissioner of North America, vigorously defended Jordan yesterday.

Hamilton would like to be in every place all the time," Richmond said, adding that Jordan had made an appearance at the San Francisco event last week.

complaint about were ridiculous. I'll give him the money (for the doctor)."

"I actually had a lot of respect for the guy coming into the match," Berger added. "He's a great player and I don't know him well, but I'm sure he's a nice guy. But I don't really feel that needs to be done."

The fourth-ranked McEnroe, who served brilliantly throughout, did not argue with Berger. "I'd spend money to do that myself — to check and see that my vision hasn't faltered," McEnroe said. "I felt uncomfortable and tense and that might affect my ability to judge circumstances."

Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League starts EEI beat KPBC for title

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Country: _____ Year: _____
2. Name the player who scored the most goals in a single tournament?
3. Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990?

Competition coupon

Name (Full): _____
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Age: _____
Address: _____



KHC-Bayan: 2nd runner-up



The Mythical Five



All the muses line up for the competition.



Alice Versoza receives her prize. (Photos by Mohammed Bedan)

Lendl and McEnroe to clash in semifinals

TORONTO, Feb 17, (Reuters): Ivan Lendl struggled to beat Kevin Curren 6-7 6-6 3-6, while John McEnroe celebrated his 31st birthday yesterday by dominating Jay Berger 6-4 6-0 in the quarterfinals of the \$1.2 million Skydome World Tennis Tournament.

The victories put the top-seeded Lendl and third seed McEnroe into today's semifinals where they will meet for the 33rd time in their careers. Lendl holds a 17-15 edge.

The other semifinal will pit sixth-seed Tim Mayotte, who beat fourth-seeded, fellow-American Aaron Krickstein 4-6 6-4 7-6 (8-6), against second seed Brad Gilbert of the US who overcame unseeded Cze-

choslovak Petr Korda 3-6 7-6 6-2.

The Lendl-Curren second-set tiebreaker, won by Lendl 14-12, produced the finest tennis of the week. The play was breathtaking. Curren failed to convert on seven match points as Lendl produced the tennis that has made him the world's number one player.

"It was very tight," Lendl said. "You just got to be very lucky to win matches like that. You have to feel very fortunate to save one match point and seven times fortunate when you save seven match points."

The Eight-seeded Curren had an "emotional and physical let-down," in the

beginning of the third set and fell behind 3-0 opening the door wide for Lendl.

"I'm happy with my strategy. I played him right," said the 22nd-ranked Curren. "I just didn't take advantage when I put myself in a position to win."

The fourth-ranked McEnroe took a while to get into a groove — which includes some mini-tantrums against the umpire in the first set.

Those outbursts upset the fifth-seeded Berger, who said later that he was dismayed that McEnroe questioned calls that were clearly correct.

"The guy's got to see an eye doctor," the 10th-ranked Berger said. "The calls he

complained about were ridiculous. I'll give him the money (for the doctor)."

"I actually had a lot of respect for the guy coming into the match," Berger added. "He's a great player and I don't know him well, but I'm sure he's a nice guy. But I don't really feel that needs to be done."

The fourth-ranked McEnroe, who served brilliantly throughout, did not argue with Berger. "I'd spend money to do that myself — to check and see that my vision hasn't faltered," McEnroe said. "I felt uncomfortable and tense and that might affect my ability to judge circumstances."

Filcheck rated chess tourney starting Feb 23

THE first round match of the first rated tournament organised by the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filcheck) will start on Friday, February 23 at 9:00 am at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

All participants have been divided into two groups A and B according to their rating and previous tournament standing. Each group shall play a 7-round Swiss system to determine the champion and the three runners up. Each player must make his first 45 moves in 1-1/2 hours and the succeeding 15 moves in 30 minutes. A player who exceeds the time regulation will be adjudged loser and his opponent winner of the game. A 30-minute defaulting time will

be observed and a player who defaults two consecutive games shall be considered withdrawn from the rest of the tournament.

First round schedule: (Odd Nos. - white versus even Nos. - black)

Group A - 9:00 am: 1. Mauro Burlat, 2. Dads Pates, 3. Dionys Bartolome, 4. Mel Espinoza, 5. Hussain Ahmad, 6. Robert Vargas, 7. Jun Emtan, 8. Gil Ojiana Jr., 9. Bernard de los Reyes, 10. Nilo Magtanggob, 11. Jigs Acodisen, 12. Nonoy Caro, 13. Dedi Hernas, 14. Silver Salvado, 15. Rolly Mercado, 16. Stanley Sawit, 17. Jun Alejandro, 18. Ramon Bucay, 19. Alex Espedilla, 20. Fred Marasigan, 21. Vic Corpuz, 22. Robert Daiz.

Group B - 12:00 Noon: 1. Thony Monreal, 2. Rey Cortez, 3. Niel Dumlaog, 4. Jess Betguen, 5. Romy Pagaduan, 6. Chito Barrios, 7. Rene Morales, 8. Ali Macayan, 9. Ariel Martinez, 10. Ramon Cortado, 11. Ingemar Vendiola, 12. Rolly Boado, 13. Rading Moje, 14. Nanding Policarpio, 15. Arnel Matutino, 16. Danilo Calasin, 17. Rey Mangomong, 18. Edwin Borigas, 19. Ver Farrales, 20. Romy Velayo.

Meanwhile, the club's election of its first set of officers was held on Friday at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

presided over the election and called on all elected officials to convene on Friday, February 23 at 9:00 am at the club's headquarters to formalise the position of each officer as called for in the constitution.

The following members were elected as board of directors:

1. Aureliano, Sammy; 2. Barrios, Chito; 3. Betguen, Jess; 4. Borigas, Edwin; 5. Calasin, Danny; 6. Cortado, Mon; 7. Dumlaog, Niel; 8. Lagmay, Teddy; 9. Macayan, Ali; 10. Mercado, Jun; 11. Moje, Rading; 12. Monreal, Thony; 13. Morales, Rene; 14. Policarpio, Nanding; 15. Raza, Edward.

Padilla, Elliott triumph

INGLEWOOD, California, Feb 17, (AP) Doug Padilla won the two-mile national record time, and Peter Elliott of Britain won a mile race for the second time in a week last night in the Los Angeles Times-Eagle Indoor Games.

Padilla bettered his American record with a time of 8 minutes, 15.02 seconds in the meet at the forum. He set the national indoor record of 8:15.3 in 1985 at San Diego.

Padilla, who broke away from the pack just beyond the mile mark and ran by himself the rest of the way, missed the international two-mile indoor mark of 8:13.2 set by Emiel Puttemans of Belgium in 1973.

As a measure of how much he outdistanced the field, Padilla beat runner-up Brian Anshure by more than 17 seconds. Anshure finished in 8:32.34, and Eamonn Coghlan of Ireland was third in 8:34.13.

"I hoped the pace would be a little faster, but I kind of figured it would be a 'loner' race," Padilla said.

Elliott, who won the mile at the Meadowlands in New Jersey a week ago, took the times mile in 3:55.51, with Nourredine Morcelli of Algeria second in 3:55.83. Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland was third in 3:56.99.

Elliott's winning time the previous week was 3:52.02.

Danny Everett, who set a world indoor record of 45.04 in the 400 metres recently in West Germany, won the 500 last night with a time of 1:03.19.

American Jackie Joyner-Kersey, world record-holder in the heptathlon and double gold medalist in the Seoul Olympics, won one race and finished second in another.

Joyner-Kersey, the national indoor record-holder in the women's 60-metre hurdles, who took event in 8:01 seconds, well off her American standard of 7.81.

Americans Lynda Tolbert finished second in 8:08, and Donna Waller was third in 8:31.

Joyner-Kersey came back after a brief rest to finish second to Michelle Finn in the women's 60-metre dash. Finn won in 7.19 and Joyner-Kersey was clocked in 7.32.

Dawo Sowell, American record-holder (7.15) at the distance, withdrew from the final after she slipped and fell on the track following her qualifying heat, slightly injuring her left hip.

Although the injury was not thought to be serious, Sowell decided not to take a chance on aggravating it.

Joyner-Kersey wasn't particularly pleased with her outings, explaining, "I'm having some problems with the hurdles; I'm really trying to work on mechanics. I'm not snapping off the hurdles."

Of her loss to Finn, Joyner-Kersey said with a smile, "Coming in second is very humbling."

Pakistan reach finals

Anwar hits 126 off 99 balls

ADELAIDE, Australia, Feb 17, (Reuters) Opener Saeed Anwar led Pakistan to their highest total in a 50 overs-a-side match with a spectacular 126 off 99 balls in their World Series Cup victory over Sri Lanka today.

Pakistan scored 315 for three and Sri Lanka, needing to win to keep alive their slim hopes of appearing in the finals, made a spirited attempt to reach the daunting target, finishing on 288 for eight.

The crowd of 3,854 at the Adelaide Oval was treated to the biggest run feast in the history of the triangular tournament. The 603 runs scored bettered the 593 in Adelaide in January, 1983, when New Zealand posted 297 for six to beat England's 296 for five.

Anwar, whose previous best score in 10 one-day matches was 42 not out, belted eight fours and six sixes in a record World Series Cup opening stand of 202 with Rameez Raja.

It beat the 182 by West Indies' Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes, also against Sri Lanka, in Melbourne five years ago.

Their stand fell just 10 short of the world best one-day opening stand of 212 by Australia's Geoff Marsh and David Boon against India at Jaipur in 1986-87.

Anwar, who has struggled for runs on tour, said he usually preferred to bat down the order.

"I tried early on to just settle down and get singles for the first



Saeed Anwar

five or six overs and after that I think luck favoured me a little," he said.

Rameez was content to play the anchor role, posting his second successive one-day hundred following the unbeaten 116 he made against Sri Lanka to Hobart on Thursday. His unbeaten 107 contained only three fours and was made off 158 deliveries.

Sri Lanka's efforts to score an unlikely victory were built around a fifth-wicket stand of 128 between skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, who made 64, and Roshan Mahanama, who scored 72.

PAKISTAN
Rameez Raja not out 107
Saeed Anwar b Asoka de Silva 126

Salim Malik b Rameez Raja 25
Wasim Akram b Rameez Raja 34
Imran Khan not out 1
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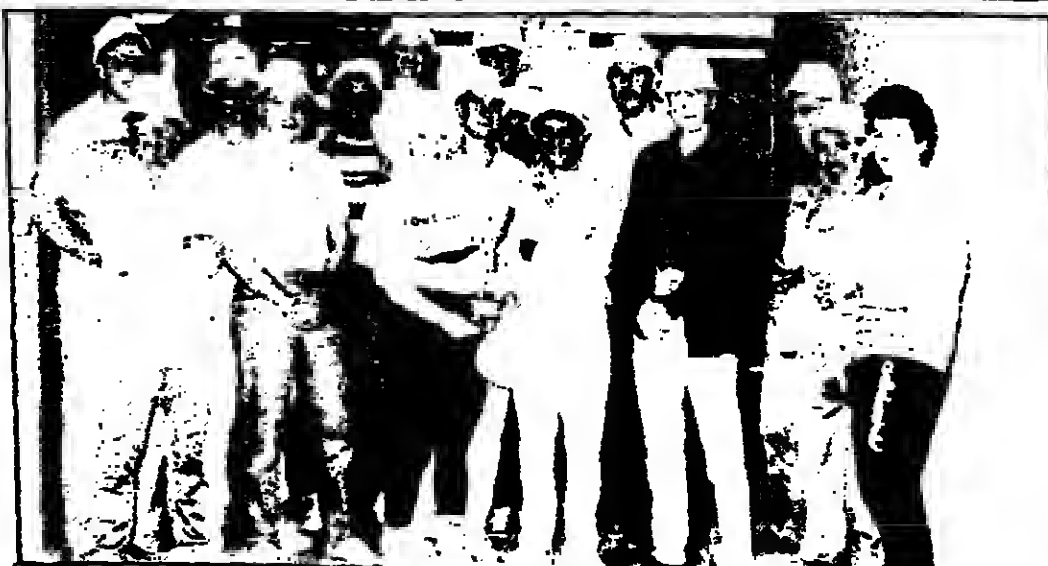
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Both teams sporting their Holiday Inn hats

Holiday Inn rout SAS

THE Holiday Inn squash team beat SAS Hotel 10-1 to win the first of many battles for The Sultan Center Cup at Holiday Inn's Apollo Fitness Centre recently.

Previous battles between the two sides have been closely-fought affairs which have led to many return encounters and the introduction of a trophy, provided by The Sultan Center which is held by the winning team until the next challenge.

When asked to account for the dominance of Holiday Inn, team captain Bob Green, "both teams had a couple of good players missing — so that made a little difference. We have two new good players on our squad, Adrian King and Mike Lee, and they certainly made a difference."

"But perhaps the most important factor was our team spirit and determination to perform well. We had 17 good players fighting for 11 team positions. Everyone played their best squash, particularly Ahmad Salla who trounced SAS captain Steve Mansell with the loss of only a few points."

"Jane Drake also did well by fighting her way into the men's team and then beating Dave King. Even our first reserve Sunit Aurora was standing by hoping for a last minute inclusion. If this keeps up, The Sultan Center Cup will become part of the Apollo furniture — but I'm sure that SAS will have something to say about that."

The Holiday Inn provided the teams with a buffet, and also Holiday Inn sun hats and earbuds. Both the team captains were also given bath robes.



Clockwise from top left, Bob Green, Steve Mansell, Jenny King (SAS manageress) and Julie Dent all holding The Sultan Center Cup.



The players socialising after the match.

Results (Holiday Inn names first):
Bob Green (capt) beat Andy Richards 3-0, Ahmad Salla beat Steve Mansell (capt) 3-0, Adrian King beat Dave Preotice 3-1, Julien Gill beat Graham Dumshy 3-2, Mike Lee beat Amer Barakat 3-0, Hamish Dow beat Phil Reevy 3-0, Mohamed Borsi beat Pete Birch 3-0, Ghynn Gatland beat Robert Relastic 3-1, Jane Drake beat Dave King 3-0, Mary Dredge beat Anne Mansell 3-0, Julie Dent lost to Pauline Cox 2-3.
Notice — change of date
The handicap knockout at the Apollo Fitness Centre of the Holiday Inn is now every Tuesday at 6 pm. Everyone welcome. For details contact Julie Dent Tel 4742000 ext 6700.

Indian batsmen run riot

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Feb 17, (Reuters) India powered to 336 for six wickets today to beat a strong opposition after the second day of play in its four-day cricket match against New Zealand provincial team Northern Districts.

The Indians reached their total in 159.34 minutes thanks to Northern Districts' total of 340 for six declared.

India took a lot of risks and got away with most of them.

There were five half-centuries for the tourists: from Ajay Sharma (87), Gusharan Singh (80), Kiran More (53 not out), Venkatapathy Raju (52 not out) and Workar Ramesh (51).

The climax came with More and Raju adding 98 in the last 58 minutes. Singh and Sharma, the two top scorers, have not been in the Test side so far and can have done only good to their prospects in playing in the series.

The decision to play in the series was made last week, especially with Test captain Dilip Vengsarkar (1) and Sanjay Manjrekar (0) having failed on the same afternoon.

India is using the match to prepare for the third Test against New Zealand, which leads the series 1-0.

Indian cricketers have protested to cricket authorities after they raided their changing room twice in two days.

"Our players are in your lovely country to face Richard Hadlee and

company and not to contend with thieves and burglars," Indian manager Anant Kanandikar told reporters today.

Kanandikar said he had lodged a complaint with the New Zealand Cricket Council.

Police said three Indian players had their cash stolen when they broke into their changing room at Hamilton's Seddon Park, on Friday.

Among the victims was captain Mohammed

Anti-Indian demonstrations threaten World Cup hockey

LAHORE, Pakistan, Feb. 17, (Reuters): The International Hockey Federation (FIH) threatened today to call off the World Cup after anti-Indian demonstrators interrupted India's match against the Netherlands.

Students protesting against India's crackdown against a violent Muslim independence campaign in its Kashmir

state threw stones and sticks towards the Indian players and burned Indian flags. The game was held up for a short time in the 29th minute with the Dutch leading 2-0 and both teams had to leave the field at half-time to avoid the barrage of missiles. The match was completed, with the Netherlands winning 5-3, but FIH officials said if the players' safety could not

be guaranteed they might have to abandon the tournament. "The security of the players is our prime concern and if the organisers cannot stop foreign objects being thrown into the field, we may have to call off the tournament," FIH technical delegate Heinz Wolke said. Wolke and another technical delegate, Antonio von Oндарра, convened an emer-

gency meeting with the organisers this evening to discuss safety arrangements for tomorrow's match between India and Australia. "We are reviewing the situation and the tournament cannot continue if a single match is suspended," said von Oндарра. The Indians, who have been continuously heckled by the crowds, are under

constant armed protection after they sought extra security before the tournament because of Indo-Pakistan tension over disputed Kashmir region. India's defeat by the European champions ended their faint hopes of qualifying for the semifinals while the Dutch went top of Group A, one point ahead of Australia who have a game in hand.

The Dutch were 2-0 up after nine minutes and added two more in the second half before India got on the scoreboard in the 65th minute. India scored twice more after the Dutch added a fifth in the 66th minute. Hosts Pakistan also took a big step towards qualifying for the semifinals with a 1-1 draw against England, silver medal-

ists at the last World Cup, to go top of Group B. Pakistan lead West Germany, who have a game in hand, by one point. To qualify for the semifinals England would need to beat West Germany in their final game and hope the Germans or Pakistan slip up against other sides.

England, Scotland win easily

LONDON, Feb. 17, (Reuters): A runaway 75-minute try by left-wing Rory Lamont helped seal England's resounding 34-6 victory over Wales in their Five Nations Rugby Union Championship match today.

Underwood celebrated his 37th international — an England record for a back — with a try either side of half-time as England recorded their biggest victory over their old rivals. England, who are now only one game away from their first Grand Slam since 1980, took full advantage of a strong, gusting wind to run up a 16-0 lead at half-time.

Full-back Simon Hodgkinson, who kicked 18 points in all, was on target with two early penalties then centre and Captain Will Carling weaved through the Welsh defence to score in the left hand corner.

Scotland beat France 21-0 in their match at Murrayfield after the visitors played the last half hour without flanker Alex Carmichael who was sent off for stamping.

Full back Gavin Hastings got the Scots started with a penalty after nine minutes, but they had to wait another 40 minutes before going further ahead.

Fly half Craig Chalmers made the score 6-0 by converting the penalty. English referee Fred Howard awarded against France when he dismissed Carmichael for stamping on flanker John Jeffrey.

The dispirited French tried to rouse themselves and full back Serge Blanco made a dash through the middle, but as the ball went loose Scotland counter-attacked superbly to go 12-0 over the hour with a try by Sean Lineen converted by Chalmers.

Liverpool sail through

Oldham hold Everton

LONDON, Feb. 17, (Reuters): Holders Liverpool reached the quarterfinals of the English Football Association (FA) Cup today with a 3-0 win over Southampton.

But last year's losing finalists Everton failed to end Second Division Oldham Athletic's 32-match unbeaten home record, drawing 2-2.

On a day of no major upsets, the greatest surprise in the fifth round was caused by Oldham, who came back from a seemingly hopeless two goals down at home to snatch a draw on their controversial artificial pitch.

Liverpool, playing the day's only all First-Division tie, were in fine form with Welsh striker Ian Rush scoring his 19th goal of the season.

Aston Villa, second in the League, won 2-0 at Second Division midlands neighbours West Bromwich Albion.

First Division Crystal Palace, whose goalkeeper cost 50 times as much as Fourth Division Rochdale's entire team, stopped their opponents' best ever Cup run with a 1-0 home win.

Tomorrow, Manchester United play Second Division Newcastle in their cup tie while Third Division Blackpool host First Division Queens Park Rangers and Sheffield United are at



Ian Rush

home to Barnsley in an all Second Division encounter.

In the English First Division, champions Arsenal slumped to a 1-0 defeat at Sheffield Wednesday but remain third, eight points behind Liverpool and seven behind Villa.

In their FA Cup, Third Division Bristol City, who beat First Division Chelsea 3-1 in the fourth round, were held to the only goalless draw of the round at home to Fourth Division Cambridge.

Oldham, who effectively won a place in first leg of their semifinal on Wednesday, seemed hurried when Everton went 2-0

ahead in the space of five minutes in the first half.

Scotland striker Graeme Sharp struck in the 22nd minute and former West Ham star Tony Cottee seemed to have secured his old club's revenge with a flick four minutes later.

But Oldham hit back. A 60th minute penalty gave Andie Ritchie his 25th goal of the season and Roger Palmer made it 2-2 with a 66th minute header.

Results

English Football Association Cup fifth round

Bristol City 0 Cambridge 0
Crystal P 1 Rochdale 0
Liverpool 3 Southampton 0
Oldham 2 Everton 2

(Replay on Wednesday, 21 February)
West Bromwich 0 Aston Villa 2

Playing Sunday: Newcastle v Manchester United, Blackpool v Queens Park Rangers, Sheffield United v Barnsley.

English Division One
Coventry 3 Millwall 1
Nottingham Forest 1 Chelsea 1
Sheffield Wed 1 Arsenal 0

Postponed: Charlton v Luton, Liverpool v Derby, Manchester United v Everton, Queens Park Rangers v Manchester City, Southampton v Norwich, Tottenham v Aston Villa, Wimbledon v Crystal Palace.

English Division Two
Blackburn 1 Port Vale 0
Bradford 1 Oxford 0
Bristol 1 Luton 0

Hull 1 Portsmouth 2
Ipswich 2 Leeds 2
Sheff Wed 2 Wolves 0

Postponed: Sunderland v Watford
Playing Sunday: Swindon v West Ham
Postponed: Newcastle v Bournemouth.

Plymouth v Oldham, West Bromwich v Leicester.

English Division Three
Birmingham 0 Wigan 0
Bury 1 Tranmere 2
Cardiff 0 Crewe 0

Chesham 1 Shrewsbury 0
Fulham 5 Notts County 2
Huddersfield 1 Mansfield 0
Northampton 0 Bolton 0
Reading 6 Preston 0
Rotherham 3 Swans 2

Postponed: Blackpool v Swansea, Bristol Rovers v Walsall, Leyton Orient v Brentford.

English Division Four
Chesterfield 3 Wrexham 0
Exeter 3 Maidstone 0
Gillingham 0 York 0

Grimsby 4 Barnley 2
Halifax 4 Aldershot 1
Hartford 4 Hartlepool 1
Hendon 2 Colchester 1

Peterborough 3 Carlisle 0
Scarborough 0 Torquay 0

Played Friday:
Southend 0 Southport 0
Stockport 3 Doncaster 1

Postponed: Rochdale v Cambridge United, Scarborough v Torquay.

Scottish Division One
Aberdeen 1 Celtic 1
Dundee U 2 St Mirren 0
Hibernian 2 Dunfermline 1

Rangers 0 Hearts 0

Scottish Division Two
Aberdeen 1 Celtic 1
Dundee U 2 St Mirren 0

Postponed matches: Dumbarton v East Stirling, Motherwell v Berwick, Queen's Park v Stranraer, Stenhousemuir v Brechin.



Jamal (left) waves a flag after crossing the finish line. Nezar Ramadan about to receive his prize.

Jamal and Zaal triumph

JAMAL MAHMOUD and Zaal Adham Faras won the 7th Jerusalem Marathon and the 6th Electricity Consumption Marathon respectively on Friday.

Jamal Mahmoud finished the 21-km long race in one hour, 2 minutes and 36.4 seconds. He won the cup of the President of Palestine, Yasser Arafat. Mohammad Khalaf Attiya took 1 hour, 3 minutes and 33.9 seconds to run the same distance and win second place while Kaseh Jaber came third in 1 hour, 3 minutes and 37.4 seconds.

In the under-19, 9-km category, Mohammad Khalaf came first in 38 minutes and 51.9 seconds, Hamdi Mohammad took 40 minutes and 18.2 seconds for second place while Jahbar Rahif came third in 40 minutes and 22.1 seconds.

In the women's 4-km category, Suad Mamdouh came first in 18 min. and 5 sec., Eiman Essam second in 19 min. and 27.9 sec. and Rema Saeed came third in 19 min. and 41.1 seconds.

In the 21-km category, for the disabled Nezar Ramadan came first in 54 min and 6.38 seconds while Shafi Murawah came in second position in 54 minutes and 12.24 seconds, 6,500 men, women and handicapped took part in the four categories.

The marathon was held under the patronage of chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad and was attended by Palestinian Ambassador, Awmi Battash and Sheikh Ahmad Fahd Al Ahmad and others.



Above and below: two winners of the 6th Electricity and Consumption Marathon receive their prizes.



Zaal Adham Fares finished his 20.5 km race in 1 hour, 8 minutes and 55.6 seconds. Mohammad Khalaf came second in 1 hour, 9 minutes and 1.1 seconds while Kaseh Jaber came third in 1 hour, 9 minutes and 13 seconds. This category was restricted to sports clubs.

In the other category, open for all, over 14-km, Mohammad Khalaf came first in 49 minutes and 27.3 seconds, Jahbar Rahif came second in 50 minutes and 23.1 seconds and Eid Habib won third place in 53 minutes and 7.9 seconds.

In the children's category, Fahd Khalaf won the 6-km long race in 23 minutes and 57.3 seconds, Yousef Awad came second in 24 min. 57 sec. and Mutlaq Mohammad won third place in 25 min. 15.7 seconds.

Al Najjar International Company
Al Fraisa Arts Production Branch

Presents

World Famous Champions of Free Wrestling

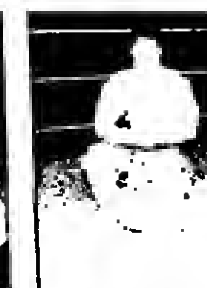
At Kazma Sports Club-Adailiya area - the Handball Hall, East Asian champions challenge European and American champions and all... Challenged by the Arab Champion from Iraq.



الرجل بكارل ماسون
SKULL MASON
Canada



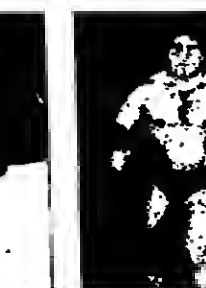
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الرجل العربي العراقي
ARABIC IRAQIAN LION



الرجل محمود
MAHMOUD KHALAF
Iraq



الرجل ملك الموت
ANGEL OF DEATH
Canada



الرجل الابيض
WHITE ANGEL
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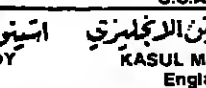
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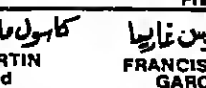
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Bouts Schedule:

On Wednesday, Friday and Monday, Feb. 21, 23 and 26, 1990 at 6.30 pm.

On Thursday, Saturday and Tuesday, Feb. 22, 24 and 27, 1990 at 8.30 pm.

On Sunday, Feb. 25, 1990 at 4.00 pm.

Tickets available at Kazma Club-Adailiya.

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SPORTS SUMMARY

NBA games

NEW YORK, Feb. 17, (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday:

Charlotte 113 Denver 107
Philadelphia 100 Seattle 96
Cleveland 109 Atlanta 101

Minnesota 111 Indiana 105
Chicago 119 Miami 105
San Antonio 100 Utah 86

Portland 120 Boston 101
Phoenix 135 Golden State 114
Washington 118 L.A. Clippers 112

Faldo ahead

MELBOURNE, Feb. 17, (Reuters): Britain's Nick Faldo admitted he was lucky to escape with a 68 which gave him a two-shot lead over world number one Greg Norman after the third round of the Australian Masters golf championship today.

Title fight

ATLANTA, Feb. 17, (AP): The World Boxing Association has given a boost to Evander Holyfield's efforts to set up a fight with James Douglas for the world heavyweight championship. The WBA yesterday notified Douglas and his manager, John Johnson, that the new champion has 30 days to reach an agreement on a match with Holyfield.

Diaz triumphs

BILBAO, Spain, Feb. 17, (AP): Spain's Policarpo "Poli" Diaz scored a 10th round technical knockout over Italian Lino Bessetti to retain his European lightweight title last night in this northern city.

Top seeded

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17, (AP): John McEnroe was seeded first yesterday in the draw for a field of 48 in the 29th annual US Pro Indoor Tennis Championship, which opens its seven-day stand Monday.

Split decision

TAMPA, Florida, Feb. 17, (AP): Juan Laporte successfully defended his North American Boxing Federation super featherweight title with a 12-round split decision over Rogelio Lopez.

Skiing series

NAGANO, Japan, Feb. 17, (AP): American Donna Weinrecht woo the women's Moguls today, while Edgar Grosjeon of France captured the men's event in the FIS World Cup freestyle skiing series.

Giant Slalom

POPPOLO, Italy, Feb. 17, (AP): Alberto Tomba, skiing his second race in two months, yesterday captured the Italian Giant Slalom title in this Alpine resort. The 23-year-old Italian, who was third after the first heat, was the fastest in the second run and clocked a winning aggregate of two minutes, 6.02 seconds.

Sweden win

DUBAI, Feb. 17, (Reuters): Sweden beat the United Arab Emirates 2-0 (half-time 1-0) in an international soccer friendly today. Scorers: Stefan Rehn (25th minute), Klas Ingesson 83rd.

ARAB @ TIMES

Published by:
Dar Al-Seyassah

Editor-in-Chief
Ahmed Al Jarallah

Editorial Office:
Airport Road, Shuwaikh.
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat, Kuwait.

Telex:
22332 KT

Telephones:
4813666 (main lines)

Advertising:
4816326/7

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Tel: 4816149, 481348